



# CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

## Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

### Momiji

The Japanese use the words kaede and momiji. In horticultural speak, the Latin *Acer palmatum*, *A. japonicum*, *A. shirasawanum*, etc. are reference. Unfortunately, many know them as "Bloodgood" and "not Bloodgood, the shrubby one." Within the genus *Acer* exist 23 different species endemic to Japan; from which several sub species and hundreds of cultivars have spawned. Japanese maples are an incredibly diverse group of plants with tremendous landscape value. If your design includes a red-leaved oriental ornamental upright, Christensen's Plant Center stocks superb selections suiting situational site scale and specifications.



*Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' - popular old, boring yet hardy cultivar. Strong growing, broad-topped upright form that can reach a mature height of 25-30 feet with equal spread. Dark red leaves hold color well without bronzing, but may sunburn in hot afternoon sun. This one is the PBS in the cable TV line-up.

*A. palmatum* 'Emperor I' - Similar to 'Bloodgood' in mature size, but superior in vigor and leaf color retention. The dark purple-red leaves are more pointy and emerge a couple weeks later than 'Bloodgood', making 'Emperor I' an excellent choice for the Michigan landscape. Numerous fine teeth along edge of leaf lobes add interest. I like it.

*A. palmatum* 'Crimson Prince' - This cultivar is a stocky, improved 'Bloodgood'. Similar leaf shape and color but supposedly less susceptible to scorch with better color retention. Plants that I have seen are denser and have a bit more of a formal, regular growth habit. This red-leaved cultivar will achieve a mature height of about 12-15 feet with spread of about two-thirds. Dark stems add winter interest.

*A. palmatum* 'Rhode Island Red' - A handsome dwarf cultivar with a rounded growth habit, maturing to height of about 6-8 feet with a similar width. Dense, compact branching habit. Red foliage takes on orange-red tone in fall.

Christensen's Plant Center stocks many other ornamental Japanese maples including several dissectum (laceleaf) varieties. The knowledgeable sales staff can help you choose the right plant to suit your project. There is more to momiji than 'Bloodgood' and 'not Bloodgood, the other one.'



**Ben Woloski**

**Christensen's Plant Center**  
**6282 Gotfredson Road**  
**Plymouth, Michigan 48170**

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

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