

Key to the Classification of Japanese Maple Cultivars Groups

*Follow the Key to Classify a Japanese Maple in the Correct Group
Addendum to The Official Classification of The Maple Society*

by Cor van Gelderen

1:

- A- middle lobe reduced and usually shorter than the surrounding lobes. **Witches Broom Group**
- B- leaf sessile and lobes reduced at the base to the central nerve. **Sessilifolium Group**
- C- lobes convex and usually seven or more lobes. **Convexum Group**
- D- leaf margin wavy or curly, no more than 5 lobes. **Crispum Group**
- E- branches with a pine-like rough structure. **Pinebark Group**
- F- leaf divided to the base or nearly. **Go to 2**
- G- leaf divided to half the leaf blade or less. **Go to 4**
- H- leaf divided to two thirds. **Go to 5**

2:

- A- lobes strongly double toothed. **Dissectum Group**
- B- lobes only lightly toothed or almost entire. **Linearilobum Group**
- C- lobes wider and clearly toothed. **Go to 3**

3:

- A- foliage color in summer green. **Matsumurae Group**
- B- foliage color in summer red or reddish green. **Atropurpureum Group**
- C- foliage color in summer variegated. **Go to 7**

4:

- A- foliage color in summer green. **Amoenum Group**
- B- foliage color in summer red or reddish green. **Atropurpureum Group**
- C- foliage color in summer variegated. **Variegatum Group**

5:

- A- foliage color in summer red or reddish green. **Atropurpureum Group**
- B- foliage color in spring and early summer orange to yellow-green. **Aureum Group**
- C- foliage color in spring and early summer pink or pinkish-red. **Corallinum Group**
- D- foliage color in summer green. **Go to 6**
- E- foliage color in summer variegated. **Go to 7**

6:

- A- winter branches red, orange or yellow. **Red Wood Group**
- B- branches green or brown. **Palmatum Group**

7:

- A- leaf margin in a contrasting color. **Marginatum Group**
- B- veins in a contrasting color. **Reticulatum Group**
- C- variegated leaves but not just the margins. **Variegatum Group**