



CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER
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What is Snakeroot?



We love this unique color combination created by thedangergarden.com.

This week's perennial special is a lesser known plant, but still worth it.

This dark leaved perennial is tolerant to moisture laden shade areas. The white blooming plant is cold hardy. The unique bloom shows off later in the season, typically beginning late July to early August.

For a stronger impact, mass planting is great and toward the back of the garden. Plant Astible, Bleeding Heart, and other green leaved perennials in the front to show off the color combination. Also combines well with Summersweet, Sweetspire, and many other shrubs.

Plant height 3-5'

The blooms traditionally make up the last 18" of the plant height. Leaves traditionally stay around 3'.

Customer Request:

Growing Japanese Maples in Containers



Image: cozylittlehouse.com

After last weeks email about growing Japanese Maples in the ground last week, we had a customer request for tips on growing Japanese Maples in containers.

After much research, it sounds like it will be possible for Iowa gardeners to grow Japanese Maples in containers. There are a few important details that should be noted.

First, the size of container is important. The roots of a Japanese Maple cannot tolerate being too wet. This means when you water your tree be careful to water the size of your tree, not the size of your container. The container size should be 2x as large as your current root system. You will have to transplant your tree as the root system grows on average every three years or so.

The second important detail is how to winter it over. A Japanese Maple should be allowed to go dormant for the season and then moved into a unheated garage or basement. A low light area is fine. The area should

stay above freezing, but not remain too warm. **You will not be able to leave it outside in a container and expect it to winter over.** A good rule of them to get any tree/shrub/perennial to winter over in a container is to be sure the plant is cold hardy to two zones colder than your traditional zone. If you wish to leave your plant outside in our zone, you would need to find a plant that is hardy to Zone 3.

Other tips:

- * Choose dwarf trees - traditionally below 10' at maturity
- * Prune mid-summer
- * Fertilize sparingly and always after the threat of frosts have past and never later than August 1st
- * If you move it outside prior to our last frost date (May 15th) be prepared to move it back inside during frost/freeze warnings
- * Once you move it back outside, keep it out of all windy locations
- * Keep your soil moist, but well drained
- * The best light will be a part-shade

Design tip:

- * Pairs well with other uniquely textured plants

Suggestions: Japanese Forest Grass, Aralia, Aujga, and Ferns

More information found at: <https://cozylittlehouse.com/2017/10/growing-japanese-maples-in-containers.html>

Organic Options for Insecticides and Fungicides

Dormant Oil and Neem Oil

Let's all take a second and raise our hand if your garden is showing any sort of sign of fungus or insect damage. Judging the customer traffic coming in to the garden center with issues on some sort of plant, my guess is over half of us raised our hands.

Perhaps its a Powdery Mildew on your Phlox or Scale on Magnolia. Maybe

its Cedar Apple Rust or Shot Hole Fungus on a fruit tree. Fungus spores were having a great year with all of the early moisture. Now that we have turned dry, they will have a harder time spreading, but we should still be vigilant in our efforts to knock them back. We can take action now and in the spring. Dormant and Neem Oils are excellent options for spring treatments.

Dormant Oil and Neem Oil are two excellent options for controlling both insect and fungus issues. Let it be known, we carry plenty of options for all types of issues. I am just going to highlight these two for this morning's purpose.

Dormant Oil

Our brand, Bonide, has a mineral oil and petroleum oil option. This product is designed to smother overwintering eggs and spores. The oil penetrates into the surface of the insect's hard outer shell, and suffocates it by not allowing any oxygen to get through. Don't be fooled by the name. This product is often used at varying stages of growth during the early spring months.

You will want to pay special attention to the underside of the branches while spraying. You should never use this product above 85 degrees or below 40 degrees. If your tree is drought stressed, you should avoid use until you water your tree a few times to prevent burn damage. **Always read the label and test a small area of your tree prior to treating the entire tree.**

Do not allow Dormant Oil to drift on to Hibiscus, Blue Spruce, White Pine, Arborvitae, Juniper, Japanese Maples, Hickory, Walnut, or Ferns.

Pay close attention to the label on this product. Dormant Oils should be sprayed at exactly the right time. There are three main times when discussing treatment for most insects and diseases. They are Dormant Stage which is before any buds show green tissues. Green Tip Stage is when the leaves of blossoms are bursting (1/8"-1/4"). The final stage is Delayed Dormant Stage which is considered your growing season (1/4"-1/2").

According to the label on our Dormant Oils the timing for diseases is

typically at Green Tip Stage. The rules are more specific for treatment of insects. Certain insects will be better eradicated at certain stages. Always figure out what you are battling and read the label for timing.

[Click here for photographs of bud stages.](#)

Neem Oil

Neem Oil is made from the pressed seeds of the Neem evergreen tree which is endemic to India. It kills insects in egg, larvae, and adult stages. Neem Oil also helps to suffocate the fungus spores. Neem Oil is absorbed into the insect and disrupts their natural thought process. The insects allow the absorption because the insects think it is a natural hormone. It has been found some insects then forget to eat, mate, and even lay eggs (<https://austintreesurgeons.com/neem-oil-benefits-to-trees/>).

Much like Dormant Oil, you will not want to use this product on stressed or wilted plants. Use this product in the late evening to prevent sun scorch on the leaves. **Always read the label and test a small area of leaves prior to treating the entire tree.**

Do not use or allow Neem Oil to drift on to Impatiens, Fuschia, Hibiscus, certain Roses, or Carnations.

Special Note: Never spray either of these products during the middle of the day to lower your risk of accidentally spraying our beneficial pollinators. Both of these oils are organic and are the "kindest" option for our beneficial bugs, but if they are contacted will disrupt their life cycle.



Image Source : GNU Free Documentation License
Neem Seeds



'Takara' image: Pinterest

Fall Peony Planting

You asked, we answered.

We have had many customers interested in planting Peonies in the fall. We had a late order of Bartzella, Festiva Maxima, Takara, and Cora Louise come in. Peonies are incredibly cold hardy and can be planted well into the fall with exceptional success rates.



'Bartzella' Photo credit: waysidegardens.com



'Cora Louise' Monrovia.com

Ornamental mums and other fall annuals will be here the week of August 24th. We will update Facebook when they arrive.



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