

Plants for an Oriental Garden

Some plants seem to look at home within an Oriental setting and many convey a subtle message; for example Pines are a symbol of "longevity", while Apricots mean "fleeting beauty".

Latin Name:	Common Name:	Height x Spread:	Deciduous/ Evergreen:
<i>Acer palmatum</i> <i>dissectum 'Atropurpureum'</i>	Japanese Maple	2m x 3m (6' x 10')	D
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Fern	15cm x 20cm (6" x 8")	E
<i>Iris kaempferi</i>	Japanese Iris	90cm x 90cm (3')	D
<i>Juniperus procumbens</i>	Bonin Island Juniper	75cm x 2m (30" x 6')	E
<i>Lilium lancifolium</i>	Tiger Lily	60cm-1.5m (2' x 5')	D
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star Magnolia	3m x 4m (10' x 12')	D
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo	2m x 1.5m (6' x 5')	E
<i>Ophiopogon</i> <i>planiscapus 'Nigrescens'</i>	Lilyturf	20cm x 30cm (8" x 12")	E
<i>Phyllostachys nigra</i>	Black Bamboo	3m x 2m (10' x 6')	E
<i>Pinus pumila</i>	Dwarf Siberian Pine	2m x 2m (6' x 6')	E
<i>Prunus mume</i>	Japanese Apricot	9m x 9m (28' x 28')	D
<i>Rhododendron</i> <i>yakushimanum</i>	Rhododendron	2mx 2m (6' x 6')	E
<i>Sagina subulata 'Aurea'</i>	Pearlwort	1cm x 20cm (0.5"x 8")	E
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria	9mx 9m (28' x 28')	D

NB: Availability of some varieties may be limited, due to scarcity of supply. If unavailable from our normal suppliers, we shall refer customers to an alternative source.

Further reading

Serene Gardens

by *Yoko Kawaguchi*
ISBN 1-85974-260-2

A Path Through The Japanese Garden

by *Bryan Albright & Constance Tindale*
ISBN 1-86126-316-3

Creating Japanese Gardens

by *Philip Cave*
ISBN 1-85410-423-3

creating an... Oriental Garden

creating an Oriental Garden

Oriental Garden

Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown
Dorset BH22 9DJ
Tel: 01202 591919

Haskins West End

Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW
Tel: 023 8047 2324

Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering
West Sussex BN16 4BD
Tel: 01903 777666

Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3EY
Tel: 01342 712545



Acer palmatum
atropurpureum



HASKINS
for garden pleasure

HASKINS
for garden pleasure



creating an...Oriental Garden

Principles of Oriental Design

Most people have an idea of what a Japanese-style garden should look like; with outcrops of rocks, surrounded by raked gravel, Acers, a stone lantern or Buddha and in the background, the pleasant sound of wind chimes and running water.

Where to start

You need to ask yourself a few questions before beginning an Oriental Garden.

- Do you intend to integrate a Japanese-style area into your existing garden or can you surrender the entire garden to an oriental theme ?
- What style of feature do you wish to create ?
- Will you be able to build the garden yourself ?

Look at the site you intend to use. If it is enclosed by fences, walls or buildings, your dream will be much easier to recreate. A plain, simple back drop allows almost any design to look successful.

If space is limited within an existing garden, it is wise to keep the design “strong” by using only two or three main elements for the overall idea to sit comfortably.

Creating an Oriental Garden

Oriental style and inspiration is divided into three classifications:

SHIN - *Formal* - Brightly painted wooden bridges, granite lanterns, bamboo screening and smooth paving.

GYO - *Semi-Formal* - Simple stone bridges, aged statues and an assortment of paving.

SO - *Informal / rustic* - A recreation of nature using natural materials and planting.

Constructing the garden

When planning and building your very own oriental garden, consider the position of the major stones first as they will remain the same while the surrounding planting changes and ornaments are replaced. Hand-pick stones from the same location, selecting them for their shared characteristics and differing size.

Decide on the rock’s “best-side” and locate its top and bottom. (Though it may sound strange, it will always look unstable if placed on its “head”!) Try to place them in irregular triangular formations with varying gaps between. Settle the base of each rock securely in the ground, giving the impression of being part of the landscape.

Remember most Oriental Gardens are based on landscape, so question whether your design resembles rugged mountains or scattered rocks.



Pathways

A pathway is a major design element that gives movement to a flat area. Careful positioning of the stones will direct the eye and control the speed of walking. A straight path that runs directly to its destination is considered abrupt and rude, whereas a winding trail is reminiscent of a stroll through the countryside. Stepping stones lend themselves to informal settings, within a gravel path.

Gravel and stones

Expanses of gravel or sand in a dry garden can represent clouds or water, with a raked ripple effect showing movement. White sand, traditionally used in Japan requires a great deal of maintenance and is perhaps better substituted with granite chippings up to 20mm in diameter. Crushed slate can work particularly well in wet areas, when a darker effect is sought.

As a rough guide, 15kg of gravel will cover an area approx. 1m square to a depth of 1cm. Always allow for extra when calculating your needs, just in case your particular colour becomes unavailable at a later date.

Features

Lanterns, water basins and bamboo screening has all become an indispensable part of Oriental Gardening. Lanterns are usually made of stone and should be placed where a light would be needed, to look in harmony with the overall theme - for example next to a path, bridge or water basin.

No Oriental Garden should be without water, be it a stylized gravel river, a granite water basin or a bamboo deer scarer. A stream is symbolic of the passage through life. By incorporating this feature, you can tell the story of your life, including twists and turns, dramas and quiet times.

