

Japanese Andromeda

Pieris japonica



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Pieris japonica is a broad-leaved evergreen shrub native to Japan, Taiwan, and eastern China. Its upright form and rounded shape make it an excellent specimen plant, but it also does well in a shrub border.

P. japonica holds its glossy green leaves year-round. Although there is no change of color in the fall, the new growth that emerges in spring and early summer is a beautiful bronze-pink to deep red, depending on the variety. In April, chains of fragrant flowers emerge, in white or pink. The flower buds for the coming spring are evident by mid-autumn. This is an excellent example of a four-season landscape plant.

P. japonica in the wild can reach heights of 9 to 12 feet. In cultivation, expect heights of 6 to 8 feet, with a 4 to 6 foot spread, although some varieties are smaller. It is a slow grower, adding 4 to 6 inches to its height each year. Plant *P. japonica* in moist, acid, well-drained soil, with plenty of peat or other organic amendments. Any location in part shade that is sheltered from the wind will do. If planting in full sun, choose a location that will not get excessively dry. USDA hardiness zones 5 through 7.

Other benefits of *P. japonica* include high resistance to deer damage and bloom time earlier than most other trees and shrubs. Its only major pest is lacebug, which can be easily controlled.



Recommended varieties:

P. japonica 'Compacta'
P. japonica 'Dorothy Wycoff'
P. japonica 'Mountain Fire'
P. japonica 'Purity'
P. japonica 'Red Mill'

3 to 4 feet tall
compact with pink flowers
deep red new growth
large white flowers
flowers last ~10 days longer