

SHRUB OF THE MONTH

- 🌸 Japanese, or flowering quince, *Chaenomeles speciosa*, is one of the most common flowering quinces. A member of the rose family, these shrubs grow from 5-10 ft high, and spread by basal suckers to form dense thickets of stems. Flowering begins early in spring before the leaves emerge, and hybrids can yield blooms ranging in color from scarlet, pink, white, orange and salmon. After flowering, a small apple-like fruit is produced. Periodic pruning can also rejuvenate floral displays in the following year.



TREE OF THE MONTH

- 🌸 Red or Swamp Maple, *Acer rubrum*, is another early spring bloomer. This tree can grow 60-90 ft tall and achieve diameters of 2-3 ft. Red maple is widespread and occurs in many different habitats ranging from low wet areas along streams to drier deciduous woods, and can be found in many areas on campus and along local roadsides. As a result of its success in a wide range of habitats, cultivars, such as October Glory, have been developed and are used in many landscaping applications. The fruit of red maple, wing-shaped samaras, is produced in early spring before leaves emerge, painting the forests with splashes of brilliant red. These deep-red flowers and fruit are among the first to appear in our forests, and are a sure sign that spring is upon us!



GARDEN TIPS OF THE MONTH

- 🌸 This is a good time to prune most shrubs before spring growth starts.
- 🌸 Leave azaleas to be pruned after they bloom.
- 🌸 If you have not already done so, prune roses, including knock-out roses.