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Garden Doctors / *Lozano & Kilchherr*

Margaret writes: I am looking for a dogwood for a Japanese theme garden. I also have space for a specimen Japanese maple. Do you have any favorites that you could recommend?

Yes, I do have a favorite Japanese maple planted in my own garden called 'Moon Fire' that is a medium-size tree and has beautiful burgundy-colored foliage. There are so many other "favorites" that have attributes such as unusual weeping tree forms, delicate cut leaves, colorful leaves from variegated to greens to purple tones, not to mention mature size variations that range from dwarf to larger specimens. Not knowing your garden site makes it difficult to recommend a specific specimen that will fit into your available space and design.

Dogwoods are showing their bloom (bracts) now and what a show! I suggest you take a short trip out to Wildwood Farm, 10300 Highway 12, in Kenwood and see for yourself

their fabulous array of specimen dogwoods and maples.

Sarah, one of the owners, can help you choose the perfect dogwood and maple for your garden. And while you are there, enjoy their sculpture garden, native plant offerings plus much more.

More maple trivia: Did you know that Acers (maples) are one of the winning trees for our area? Japanese maples require regular moisture surrounding the area of their root ball and then they can even thrive when they are planted in a hot sunny location. Mulch them like any other tree and you will enjoy the reward.

Dana Lozano is a horticultural garden consultant and designer. Gwen Kilchherr is an arborist, garden consultant, and horticulturist. They are partners in a Windsor horticultural consulting and design business, The Garden Doctors. Fax questions to them in care of the Press Democrat at 521.5343.