

Tree of the Month, August 2012:

Weeping katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Morioka Weeping')

Our weeping katsura is nearly thirty years old now – tall enough that you can step through its trailing branches and find yourself in a shady room with walls of green, heart-shaped leaves. In the autumn, these leaves turn gold and orange, and after they fall, have a scent similar to burnt sugar or caramel.

This cultivar, 'Morioka Weeping', is a clonal descendent of a huge old katsura that grows near Morioka City in Japan. Weeping katsuras (shidare-katsura) have been cultivated in Japan since the 17th century. The first weeping specimens were discovered and cultivated by priests near Morioka, who soon began sharing cuttings among nearby temples.

You can find our weeping katsura at the bottom of the waterfall in the Sino-Himalayan Garden.