



Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



Acer platanoides

(Norway maple)

[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Norway maple

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Acer platanoides L.

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Maple family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aceraceae

IMAGES



Fruit



Acer saccharum
fruit for
comparison



Incursion



Flowers with



Old bark



Fall color with

young leaves

black fungal
spot

Young bark



Habit



Seedlings

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Acer platanoides is a tree that usually grows to 12-18 m (40-60 ft.) in height, but can reach heights of 30 m (100 ft.). The bark of the tree is grayish and regularly and shallowly grooved. The palmately lobed leaves are opposite and have 5 to 7 sharply acuminate lobes (with large but few teeth). These leaves are 10-18 cm (4-7 in.) wide. The leaf petioles exude a white sap when broken. The leaves are usually green in color, but there are some cultivars that have dark red leaves. The fall color of the green leaves is yellow.

The flowers appear in April and May and are yellow-green in color. They are borne in erect, pedunculate, rounded corymbs. Each flower is 5-6 mm (0.25 in.) wide. The pendulous fruit measure 4-5 cm (1.5-2 in.) in length. The fruit are samaras that are green when young and turn yellow, then brown, with age. The samara wings are divergent, reaching nearly 180 degree angle to each other.

Page References Bailey 637, Fernald 986, Gleason & Cronquist 352, Holmgren 331, Magee & Ahles 719, Seymour 379. See reference section below for full citations.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Acer saccharum Marsh. (sugar maple)

Character	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Angle of seed wings	180 degrees	120 degrees or less
Sap color when petiole is broken	White	Clear
Bark	Regularly grooved	Thick, irregular plates

Seeds	Thin in cross section	Thick in cross section
-------	-----------------------	------------------------

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

Acer platanoides seeds are contained in winged samaras that are dispersed by wind.

DISTRIBUTION

Acer platanoides is native to continental Europe. In the U.S. it is found in the northeast from Maine to Minnesota and South to North Carolina and Tennessee. It is also found in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. It is found in all the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

The first documented introduction of *Acer platanoides* to the northeast was by John Bartram of Philadelphia, in 1756. Bartram later offered it for sale in his garden catalogue in 1762. Multiple sources of seed from Europe were available shortly after this initial introduction (Norwalk & Rowan, 1990).

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Early Successional Forest
Forest Wetland
Late Successional Forest
Open Disturbed Area
Roadside
Vacant Lot
Yard or Garden

Acer platanoides has a wide distribution throughout New England, in part due to its extensive planting as a street and ornamental tree. It has naturalized to nearby woods such as urban woodlots, forest edges and fragmented forests, and from there has moved on to less disturbed habitats.

THREATS

Acer platanoides is able to shade out native understory vegetation such as spring ephemerals, and eventually out-competes native tree species in the forest canopy. Thus, it can reduce native species diversity and change the structure of forest habitats.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Management Guide

Comprehensive management information.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Specific photograph or mounted snippet of the inflorescence, fruit or leaves

Best time for documentation: Spring, summer, fall

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

University of Connecticut Plant Database
General information and many photographs

The PLANTS database
General information and a map

Integrated Taxonomic Information System
Taxonomic information about the species

Virginia Tech Dendrology
Description and photographs

The Nature Conservancy
Images

REFERENCES

Anderson, R. 1999. Disturbance as a factor in the distribution of sugar maple and the invasion of Norway maple into a modified woodland. *Rhodora* 101(907): 264-273.

Bailey, L. H. 1949. *Manual of Cultivated Plants*. Macmillan, New York.

Britton, N. L. and A. Brown. 1970. *An Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States* vol. 2. Dover Publications Inc., New York.

Fire Conference 2000. *Proceedings of the Invasive Species Workshop: The Role of Fire in the Control and Spread of Invasive Species. The First National Congress on Fire Ecology, Prevention, and Management*. Tall Timbers Research Station, Miscellaneous Publication No. 11.

Fernald, M.L. 1950. *Gray's Manual of Botany* 8th ed. American Book Co., Boston.

Gleason, H.A. and A.C. Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. 2nd ed. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

Holmgren, N.H. 1998. *Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

Kloeppel, B.D., M.D. Abrams. 1995. Ecophysiological attributes of the native *Acer saccharum* and the exotic *Acer platanoides* in urban oak forests in Pennsylvania, USA. *Tree Physiology* 15(11): 739-746.

Magee, D.W and H.E. Ahles. 1999. *Flora of the Northeast*. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.

Martin, P. 1999. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) invasion of a natural forest stand: understory consequences and regeneration pattern. *Biological Invasions* 1:215-223.

Nowak, D.J. and A.R. Rowan. 1990. History and Range of Norway Maple. *Journal of Arboriculture* 16: 291-296.

Seymour, F.C. 1969. *The Flora of New England*. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc., Tokyo, Japan

USDA, NRCS. 2001. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.1. (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Webb, S.A. 1996. *Acer platanoides*. p.26. In Randall, J.M. and J. Marinelli. [eds.]. *Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden*. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Inc., New York.

Webb, S.L., M. Dwyer, C.K. Kaunzinger, P.H. Wyckoff. Sum 2000. The myth of the resilient forest: Case study of the invasive Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). *Rhodora* 102 (911): 332-354.

Webb, S.L., T.H. Pendergast, M.E. Dwyer. Apr-Jun 2001. Response of native and exotic maple seedling banks to removal of the exotic, invasive Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* 128 (2): 141-149.

Wyckoff, P.H., S.L. Webb. Jul-Sep 1996. Understory influence of the invasive Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 123 (3): 197-205.

DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

[:: Site Map](#)

[:: Contact Us](#)

[:: Report a Sighting](#)

Copyright © 2004 University of Connecticut

