

NORWAY MAPLE

[*Acer platanoides* L.]

ACPL2



UGA0008373

Habit: Deciduous tree reaching 30 m (98 ft) in height.^{4,2}

Reproduction: By seed;⁴ can be propagated from roots⁹ or cuttings.^{2,9}

Leaves: Opposite, green to bronze, smooth, 5-7 lobed with few teeth and broad bases up to 18 cm (7 in) wide; wider than long; petioles with milky juice, best seen at base of petiole;^{4,3} fall leaf color tending to be bright yellow.²

Stems: Trunk with widely spreading branches (cultivar-dependent; some have narrow canopies) and close bark;³ twigs are olive brown and leaf scars meet to form a sharp angle; buds are plump, fleshy, and green to maroon.²

Flowers: Stalked, yellow-green, and perfect; appearing before² or with the leaves in spring, in loose clusters (corymbs).³

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits appear in late spring through summer; two-winged (samaras) with the wings almost horizontally (180° angle) divergent;³ seeds are wind dispersed with low fall rates (estimated dispersal distance of 50 m or 164 ft);⁷ germination with cold stratification for 90-120 days;^{2,1} seed bank potential.⁵

NORWAY MAPLE



UGA0008102



UGA0008225

Acer platanoides L.

Habitat: Introduced into the U.S. from Europe in 1756¹¹ and planted extensively in urban and suburban areas;² now also found on roadsides and waste places, in hedgerows and roadside thickets;³ also spreading into early⁴ and some late-successional forests;^{6,11,10} withstands sandy, clayey, and acidic and calcareous soils; somewhat resistant to drought and tolerates ozone and sulfur dioxide; overplanted tree with a splitting bark problem; USDA hardiness zones 4 to 7.²

Comments: Shade tolerant;^{11,8} leaves hold late in autumn and root system tends to be shallow;^{8,2} at least 36 cultivars; susceptible to wilt, anthracnose, tar spot, and leaf scorch;² regenerates prolifically under its own canopy, possibly reducing overall diversity;^{6,11} greater investment in foliage than stem and roots may make it less competitive in drier, open environments.⁸

Similar Native Species: Sugar maple (*A. saccharum*); does not produce milky juice; samara wings are at an angle, and leaf scars do not meet.^{4,3,2}