

# Norway Maple

## *Acer platanoides*

**Common name:**

Norway Maple

**Pronunciation:**

A-ser plat-an-OY-dez

**Family:**

Aceraceae

**Genus:**

*Acer*

"In the Old World, Norway maple ranges from Norway to northern Turkey. Introduced to America as a shade tree, it has spread far and wide, thanks to its winged seeds dispersing on the wind.... Because it tolerates pollution better than our native maples, *A. platanoides* has been planted extensively as a street tree in urban areas. In the wild, look for it along roadsides and on disturbed lands.

(excerpt from Charles Fergus, *Trees of New England, A Natural History*)

**Quick ID Tips**

- Leaves are almost identical to the Sugar Maple, but the Norway Maple leaves are slightly broader, have sharply pointed lobes, and leaf edges tend to curl up
- Bark is grayish black with very shallow ridges and furrows that are tight to the trunk
- Milky sap exudes from petiole and leaf veins when twigs and leaf stems are broken

**Details**

- Broadleaf deciduous tree that grows to 40-50 ft. and has dense foliage, broad crown, and stout stems.
- Leaves are opposite, simple, 4-7" across with 5 lobes with pointed tips; leaves are glossy dark green above and below, often with hairs in axils of lower surface veins. Milky sap oozes out when leaf stem or twig is cracked.

- In early spring, the bright yellow-green flowers appear at the same time as the similarly hued Sugar Maple flowers and shortly after the red blossoms of the Red Maple. In fall, the foliage sometimes develops an excellent yellow in fall.
- Like other maples, the fruit is a large, 1 3/4" samara with wide, recurved spreading of the wings.
- The buds are large and maroon-green to brown.
- The Norway Maple prefers full sun but is adaptable to partial shade and almost any type of soil (sand, clay, acid, calcareous). The tree is used for urban planting as it tolerates polluted air and can withstand hot dry conditions. Shallow root system may compete with turf and lift sidewalks.
- Hardy in USDA Zones 4-7. NOTE: This tree is native to continental Europe and is often regarded as invasive due to the large quantity of seeds produced and their rapid germination. However, it is widely cultivated and distributed in the United States and has naturalized in many areas, especially in the northeastern U.S.



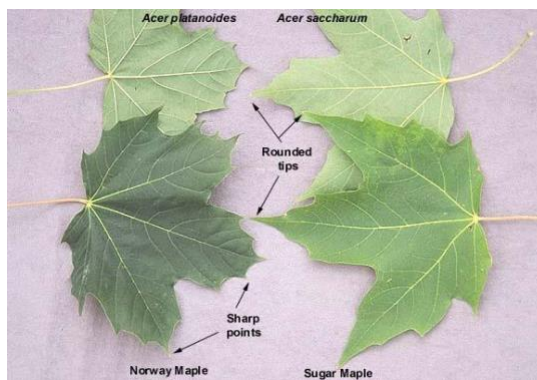
plant habit, spring flowering



spring flowers



leaf



leaf comparison with sugar maple



terminal bud



fruit development



start of fall color change



fall leaves



young bark



medium age bark



older bark

#### Sources:

- Oregon State University Landscape Plants, <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/acer-platanoides>
- David Sibley, *The Sibley Guide to Trees* (Knopf 2009)