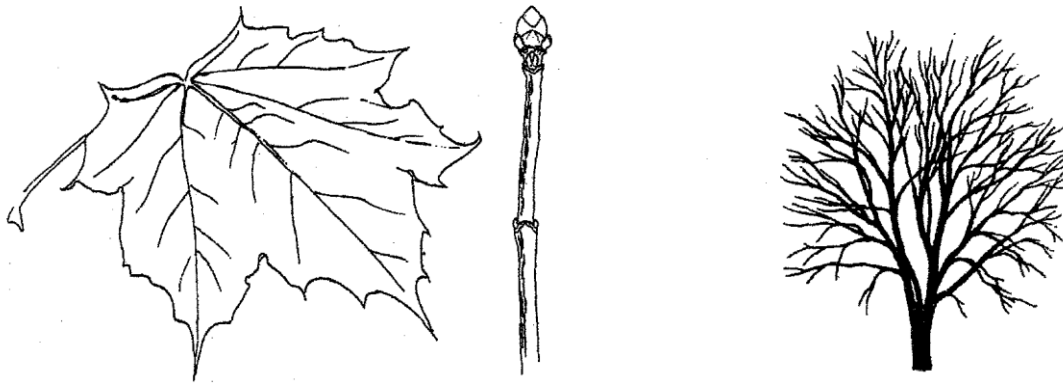


## Norway Maple

*Acer platanoides*



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This was, until recently, one of the most commonly planted street trees and often used for yards and larger landscapes. It is a fast growing tree that can provide copious shade and was originally thought to be quite stress tolerant, a concept now questioned. It is however fairly tolerant of extremes of soil, climate and pollution. The bark is gray to brown-black with many regular shallow furrows. Its life span is somewhat limited due to a tendency to rot out in the center and become susceptible to ice and wind damage.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** Generally 40-50' high and almost as wide but it is common to see specimens 50-80' tall. It has a broad rounded crown with significant branching to provide deep shade beneath the canopy. The shallow root system is just beneath the soil surface and inhibits other plant growth.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** Most certainly overplanted. It can be the consummate shade tree and can contribute to a large landscape. It is very useful in the plains and Midwest where cold, wind and drought are common and where few other shade trees can grow. It can be invasive particularly where sugar and red maples are the native plants. The shallow root system can be destructive to sidewalks and driveways and can limit subcanopy plantings.

**LEAVES:** Opposite, simple, large (4-7"), with 5 pointed lobes and secondary dentation. The leaf color is a lustrous green occasionally turning to bright yellow in the fall. Similar in shape to the sugar maple but just a little more plane. The detached petioles exude a milky sap.

**FLOWERS:** In the spring (April), before the leaves appear, many flowered erect corymbs of perfect 0.33" yellow green flowers adorn the branches and give a fresh looking display. The flowers have a two lobed ovary with two styles and 8 stamens.

**FRUIT:** In September to October 1.5-2" long samaras are produced with horizontally spreading wings and a smooth surface.

**BUD:** Terminal- plump, shiny green maroon to maroon with 6-8 smooth overlapping 0.25-0.375" scales with some hairiness along the edges of the scales.

**DISEASES AND INSECTS:** *Verticilium* wilt, some leaf scorch, anthracnose and heart wood rot.

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones 3-7. Europe and Eastern Europe s to Greece and Italy

**CULTIVARS:** Numerous. 'Crimson King' and 'Schwedleri' -reddish to purple foliage