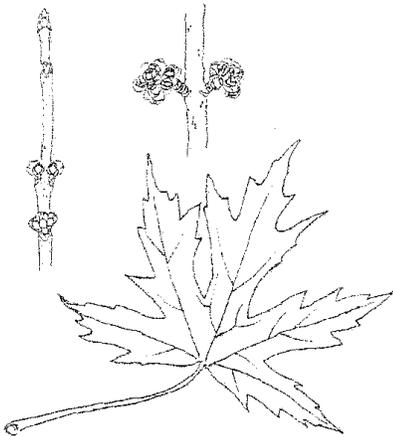


Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This tree is a native tree whose natural habitat is along streambanks, lakes and other moist places. It is a very large tree with pendulous branches, deeply cleft leaves that are light colored on the underside and shaggy bark. Silver maple was once widely planted in yards, landscapes and in urban settings, however, it is not used as a landscape plant much because of its instability in wind, rain and snowstorms. The branches break easily and even the whole tree can fall. The surface and water seeking roots buckle sidewalks and clog drains. It is the fastest growing of the maples and might be a good choice for a moist spot in a large landscape away from buildings and power lines.

HABIT AND SIZE: 60-80' tall and 35-50' wide. The outline is oval to rounded and it develops several upright and spreading branches. The smaller branches are somewhat pendulous.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: It is best for large open landscapes in moist locations. It is not good for urban areas or near buildings, water pipes, or power lines. Good yellow fall color.

LEAVES: Oppositely arranged, simple with 5 deeply cut jagged lobes (acuminate and deeply and doubly serrate) the middle lobe with 3 serrations. They are 3-6" across, bright green on the top and silvery white on the underside. Immature leaves are hairy underneath (pubescent). The petioles are 3-5" long and quite flexible. Fall color is a bright yellow.

FLOWERS: This is the first of the maples to flower in the spring and before the leaves appear. Small pinkish to reddish mostly perfect (both sexes) flowers in short dense clusters. They are without a corolla and have a small reddish calyx.

FRUIT: A samara 1.5-2.5" long with the wings at a right angle to each other each wing curved. The fruits are pubescent when young.

BUD: Vegetative buds with overlapping, flattened, ovoid scales that are reddish brown on outside with short hairs making a fringe on the edges. The 2 outer scales form a "V". Flowering buds clustered around the main bud with overlapping fringed scales and globular.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Numerous, with anthracnose, a variety of borers and trunk rot being particular problems.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 3-9. Eastern North American west to Oklahoma.

CULTIVARS: 'Silver Queen'- non fruiting and a better habit.