

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides* L.)

Alternate Names

“King Crimson” is a popular cultivar.

Mature Height

40-90 ft.

Leaf Description

Opposite leaves from 3 to 6 inches long with 5 or 7 lobes; each lobe with 1 or more pointed teeth; veins meet near base of leaf; leaf stem exudes milky sap when broken.

Flower, Fruit, Seed Description

The flowers are in corymbs of 15–30 together, yellow to yellow-green with five sepals and five petals 3–4 mm (0.12–0.16 in) long; flowering occurs in early spring before the new leaves emerge. The fruit is a double samara with two winged seeds; the seeds are disc-shaped, strongly flattened, 10–15 mm (0.39–0.59 in) across and 3 mm (0.12 in) thick. The wings are 3–5 cm (1.2–2.0 in) long, widely spread, approaching a 180° angle. Wings of Norway maple fruits point away from one another. Wings of other maple species point downward. The 3- to 4-inch clusters appear before the leaves in early April.

Bark Description

The bark is tightly ridged but not scaly like other maple barks.

Geographic Range

Native to eastern and central Europe and southwest Asia, from France east to Russia, north to southern Scandinavia and southeast to northern Iran. Norway maple was introduced for use as an ornamental landscape plant.

Habitat

It is favored due to its tall trunk and tolerance of poor, compacted soils and urban pollution, conditions that Sugar Maple cannot grow in. Because of Norway Maple's invasive nature, it has been recommended that London Plane (a hybrid of American and European Sycamore) be used instead as a pollution-tolerant native tree. Norway maple is well adapted to various soil extremes, such as sand, clay or acid. It grows in hot and dry conditions, and it can tolerate ozone and sulfur dioxide air pollution. Norway maples are widely planted in the United States and can be found from the northern border with Canada south to the Carolinas (Hardiness Zones 3-7).

Tree Silhouette

Short trunk; dense, wide, rounded crown of ascending branches.

Adapted From:

Barnard, Edward Sibley, [New York City Trees](#), Columbia University Press, NY, 2002, Wikipedia. Org, About.com Forestry

