

Acer saccharum L.

Sugar Maple

Aceraceae
Section *Acer*, series *Saccharodenron*

Introduced to Europe in 1725
Specific epithet: *saccharum*, with sugar
[note: this species is different than *A. saccharinum*, the Silver Maple]
Native range: Eastern U.S.

Culture: full sun;
Sugar Maples appreciate well-drained, moist soils with at least average fertility. They are particularly sensitive to road salt.

A medium/large-sized tree to 60' with an upright, round oval crown.

Flowers: pale yellow
early spring
corymbs

Leaves: dark green above, paler beneath
glabrous
3-6" across
simple, palmate, 3 to 5-lobed, sharply acuminate
fall color: brilliant orange and red

Fruit: samara (schizocarp)
yellowish>brown
wings: angle U-shaped
each wing 1-1.75"
matures Sept.-Oct.

Bark: gray; rough, long ridges and plates
Twig: smooth and glabrous; green>reddish brown
Buds: long, sharply pointed

Maintenance: minimal
Pruning: minimal
Insect and Disease Problems:
Landscape Use:

Landscape Use: large residential lawns, parks, commercial

Wildlife Use: buds, seeds, twigs-squirrels
porcupines
browse for deer, moose, snowshoe hare

Native Use: Cherokee—infusion of bark for cramps, dysentery, hives, eyewash, gynecology, sores
Omaha and Winnebago—black dye
Many tribes used the sap as a sweetener, including Ojibwe, Dakoya, Iroquios, Omaha, and Ponca

Historical/Cultural Information:
Maple syrup is a 65 million dollar a year industry in New England
And Sugar Maple foliage tourism can be measured in the billion.



Bill Cook, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

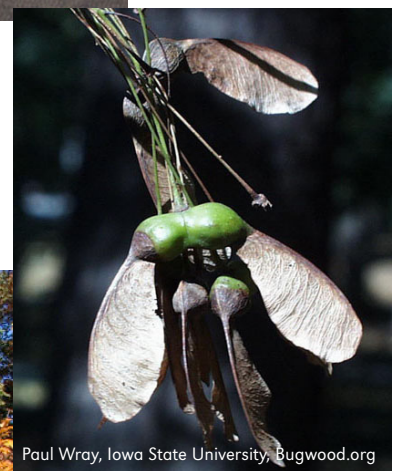


Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

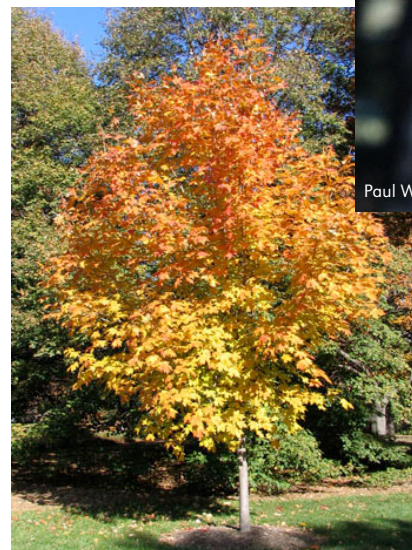
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Acer saccharum
Cultivars in Maxwell Arboretum

'Bonfire': Princeton Nurseries/J. Frank Schmidt & Son. "vigorous grower with brilliant carmine red autumn color...a selected seedling from open-pollinated seed of *A. saccharum* 'Columnare'; broad oval shape" (Santamour and McArdle, *Checklist*). PP3817, 1975 MAP NUMBER 1

'Green Mountain': Princeton Nurseries, 1964, broadly pyramidal, clone; pretty reliable fall color. Leaves have twice the waxy coating of most maples. PP2339, MAP NUMBER: 2

'Legacy': Moller's Nursery (Oregon), 1981. Selected by W.N. Wandell. Nice dark leaves; orange-red fall color. PP4979, Willet N. Wandell, 1983. One and a half times the waxy leaf coating of others. MAP NUMBER: 3

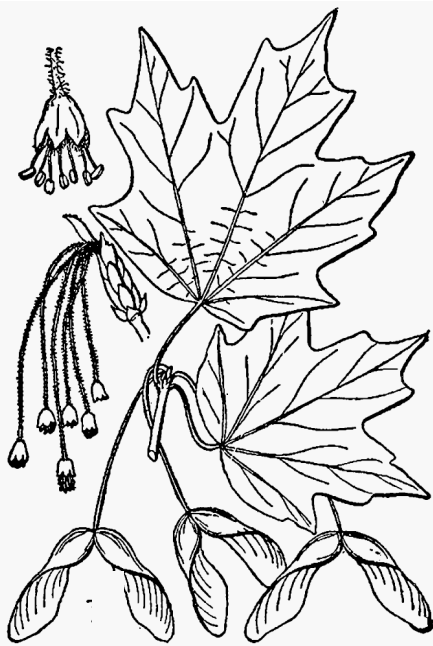
'Newton Sentry': (nmae replaces 'Columnare') Few ascending branches, strong central leader, stubby laterals; leaves dark green and leathery, wavy margin. "Found at the entrance of Newton Cemetery, Newton, MA and introduced by F.L. Temple, a Cambridge, MA nurseryman around 1885-86; Temple described the original tree as 30' high and only 2.5' in diameter at the top...In 1983 the original tree was 50' high, 14' wide, with a 16" caliper; it is the most upright of all maples..." (Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*). World plant explorer Daniel J. Hinkley lists 'Newton Sentry' first on his list of "Five Favorite Maples," *Horticulture*, 106, no. 6, Aug.-Sept. 2009. Some confusion has surrounded the name 'Newton Sentry'; See Michael Dathe, "*Acer saccharum* 'Newton Sentry: Setting the Record Straight'" in *Arnoldia* (43)[3] 29-31. MAP NUMBER: 4



Bill Cook, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

