



Norway maple *Acer platanoides* L.

Native Origin: Europe and Western Asia

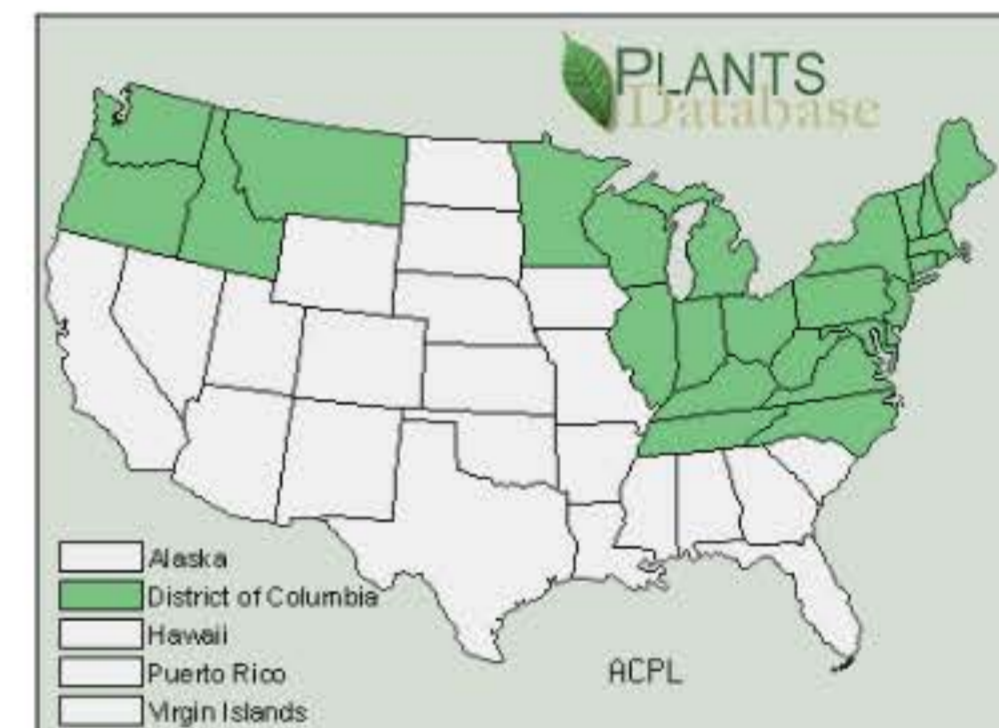
Description: A deciduous tree in the maple family (*Aceraceae*) growing 40-60 feet in height, but can reach heights of 100 feet with dense foliage, broad-rounded crown, and stout stems. The bark of the tree is grayish and shallowly grooved or furrowed. Palmate leaves are opposite, simple, and 10-18 cm across with 5 to 7 sharply pointed lobes. The glossy dark green leaves develop into yellow fall foliage. Leaves often have hairs in axils of veins and a milky sap can be observed when petiole is removed. In spring (April and May), showy clusters of flowers develop before leaves open. The yellow or greenish-yellow flowers are approximately 8 mm in diameter. Fruits mature during summer into wide-spreading wings that look like helicopter blades which split down the middle, releasing each half to the wind. Norway maple can be confused with many maple species, especially sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Milky white sap that oozes out of leaf veins and stalks when broken can help distinguish them from native maples. Also bud tips of sugar maple are pointy and sharp to the touch, while those of Norway maple are more rounded and not sharp to the touch.



Habitat: Norway maple prefers full sun, withstands hot dry conditions and tolerates ozone and sulfur dioxide air pollution. It is adapted to extremes in soils (sand, clay, acid, calcareous) and hardy to USDA Zone 4. It can be found in early and late succession forest, forested wetlands, open disturbed areas, roadsides, vacant lots, yards and gardens.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, TN, VA, VT, WI, and WV.

Ecological Impacts: Trees produce a large quantity of seeds that can germinate rapidly and crowd out native species. Norway maples have been found in woodlands near cities, especially in the northeastern U.S. It has escaped cultivation and invades forests, fields, and other natural habitats. The species can be locally dominant in forest stands, create dense shade, and displace native trees, shrubs and herbs. Its dense canopy also can shade out native wildflowers.



Control and Management: Don't plant Norway maple.

- **Manual-** Pull seedlings when soil is moist. Dig out larger plants, including the root systems. Cut down large tree. Grind out the stump, or clip off re-growth. Girdle tree by cutting through the bark and growing layer (cambium) all around the trunk. Girdling is most effective in spring.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.invasive.org, <http://oregonstate.edu>, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane>, www.mdflora.org/publications/invasives, www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/art_pubs/docs/norway_maple.pdf, Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, NPS & USFWS, p. 52-53