



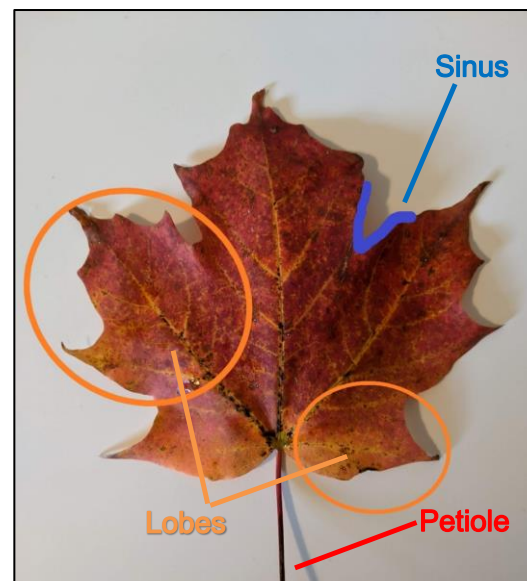
# Maple Trees: Invasive or Native?

**The Maple** family is a large group of trees and shrubs with only 6 species native to Ontario. Maples can be distinguished from other tree species by their wing-shaped fruit. Maples are an important symbol of Canada and have ecological and economic significance. Maple tree sap contains sugar and is boiled into syrup which was first discovered by Indigenous peoples. Canada is a leading producer of maple syrup and other maple products. Maple trees have also been used for their wood and medicinal properties and are known for their brilliant fall colours of red, orange and yellow<sup>1</sup>.

There are three non-native, invasive maples that are present in the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) area: Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*), Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*), and Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*). Manitoba and Norway maple are the most common invasive maples.

## LEAF ANATOMY







The leaf can be the easiest way to tell maple species apart. **Lobes** are partially rounded portions of the leaf that are divided by a **Sinus**. The **Sinus** is the deep indentations in the leaf. The **Petiole** is the stalk that attaches the leaf to the stem.



<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Encyclopedia (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/maple>

# MAPLE IDENTIFICATION FEATURES

Identification features for Norway maple, Manitoba maple and four common native maple species.

Name(s)	<b>Sugar Maple</b> ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	<b>Red Maple</b> ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	<b>Striped Maple, Moosewood</b> ( <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> )	<b>Silver Maple</b> ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )	<b>Norway Maple</b> ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )	<b>Manitoba Maple, Boxelder Maple</b> ( <i>Acer negundo</i> )
Status	<b>Native</b>	<b>Native</b>	<b>Native</b>	<b>Native</b>	<b>Invasive</b>	<b>Invasive</b>
Leaf shape	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 lobes</li> <li>• Sinuses broad and round</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 pointed lobes</li> <li>• Shallow, sharp sinuses</li> <li>• Serrated</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 lobes</li> <li>• Shallow sinuses</li> <li>• Serrated</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 lobes</li> <li>• Deep sinuses</li> <li>• Underside is silver-white</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-7 pointed lobes</li> <li>• Leaves wider than they are long</li> <li>• Petiole and stem exude white sap</li> <li>• Often have black spots</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divided into 3-5 smaller leaves that are attached to the same petiole (resembles ash leaves)</li> <li>• Up to 3 lobes each leaf</li> </ul>
Autumn leaf colour	Yellow, orange or red	Bright scarlet, orange or yellow	Pale to golden yellow	Pale yellow to brown	Remain green and retains leaves longer than native maples – then turns pale yellow or orange-brown	Yellow, yellowish-green
Fruit	U-shaped and clustered	Angled at approximately 60 degrees	Angled at approximately 145 degrees	Large and create a 90 degree angle	Angled at 180 degrees	V-shaped

## NORWAY MAPLE

The Norway Maple is an invasive tree that originates in Europe and western Asia. It was introduced to North America as an ornamental tree, and is now commonly planted as a street tree across Ontario. Norway Maple grows quicker than native maples and produces a dense canopy. It becomes a threat when it invades forests as it blocks sunlight from other native trees and plants. Its roots grow shallow which can also prevent native plant growth.

To learn about the black spots that appear on Norway Maple, visit [SSEA's YouTube Channel](#).

## MANITOBA MAPLE

Manitoba maple is native to the Canadian prairies, however, in Ontario, it is considered invasive. Manitoba maple grows fast, is relatively short-lived and forms a dense canopy at maturity, shading out native plant species. Branches are brittle and often break during storms, creating a hazard.



Manitoba Maple (left), Norway Maple (right). Photo: SSEA

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



• Participate in the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's [Look Before You Leave Awareness Program](#).



• Report sightings of invasive species.



• The [Grow Me Instead Guide](#) helps you to landscape with native plants and avoid invasive ones

### Participate in the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's [Look Before You Leave Awareness Program](#).



We can accidentally introduce invasive species to new areas by not properly cleaning vehicles, equipment, clothing and pets. Make sure when you are leaving an area, you are free of mud, plants and wildlife, which can all be carriers of invasive species.

Photo: SSEA

### Report sightings of invasive species.

- You can report your local sightings to SSEA at [invasivespecies@severnsound.ca](mailto:invasivespecies@severnsound.ca)
- Submit sightings online to [EDDMapS Ontario](#)
- Call the toll-free invading species hotline (1-800-563-7711)

### Remove invasive trees and replace with native alternatives.

Avoid using invasive plants while landscaping on your property. The [Grow Me Instead Guide](#) helps you replace invasive plants with native ones. To remove invasive maple trees, follow the Ontario Invasive Plant Council [Best Management Practices](#). You may require a [Registered Forestry Professional](#) to remove an invasive tree.

To report an invasive species in the Severn Sound area, email us at: [InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca](mailto:InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca)

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