

Shade Tree (over 30')
Deciduous

Map #56

Norway Maple

(Acer platanoides)

Family: Aceraceae



Leaves: opposite, simple, 5 lobed, lobes are sharply pointed, milky sap in petiole if removed in early summer; fall - green.

Buds: opposite; plump, rounded, green turning to purple in the winter.

Stems: gray when young, turning to dark brown with age, leaf scars meet.

Bark: grayish-black with even furrows.

Flowers: somewhat showy when entire tree is in flower in spring; yellow or greenish yellow, produced in erect, many flowered clusters.

Fruits: paired seeds with papery wings ("helicopters"), 1 ½ to 2" long, wide spreading.

Habit: dense, rounded crown often wider than high; branches very stout for size;

Culture: adaptable and easy to grow; transplants well and withstands city conditions well; difficult to grow grass underneath the dense canopy causing surface roots to become exposed from soil erosion; Verticillium wilt is most likely to become a problem in heavy soils with frequent irrigation; girdling root is a common problem often related to improper, deep planting.

Cultivars: Green-leaved: 'Cleveland' - oval-upright habit with rapid growth; 'Emerald Queen' - strong grower with good yellow fall color; 'Columnare' - stiffly upright and only 15' wide at maturity; Red-leaved: 'Crimson King' - Deep maroon foliage color throughout summer, slow growing and often difficult to transplant; 'Schwedlerii' - bronze-purple spring foliage turns dark green; 'Deborah' - bright red new growth turns dark green and has an improved habit; 'Royal Red' - deep maroon throughout summer but slow growing.

Miscellaneous: Has become an invasive problem weed in natural areas and therefore should not be planted near such areas to limit its escape into the wild. Along with green ash and honeylocust, Norway maple has become a landscaper's reflex reaction to an urban or otherwise difficult site.



'Royal Red'



'Crimson King'



'Deborah' spring & summer



'Columnare'

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.