

Acer platanoides, Norway Maple

Norway Maple is a large deciduous tree native to Europe and Asia. They can tolerate a wide variety of growing environments, making them a popular street tree. Norway Maples produce a large amount of shade due to their large leaf size, making it difficult for smaller plants to grow underneath. Norway Maples also produce vast numbers of seeds, which are dispersed by wind and easily germinate when they touch bare soil.



Description: Norway Maples can grow up to 40-60 feet tall. The tree has opposite, green leaves which are usually broader than native maples and have five lobes. The bark is gray/blackish and furrowed. Norway Maples tend to generate leaves early in the spring, forming a solid canopy before many plants can sprout. Leaves can be seen to change to a pale yellow in the fall, and the tree produces helicopter like seeds. The species is especially susceptible to tar spot, which manifests as black spots on the leaves in the fall.



Control: To prevent spread of Norway Maple, it is recommended to plant other native trees when considering landscaping options. Norway Maple seedlings can be manually removed from the ground before significant development, though as they grow this becomes progressively more difficult. Chemical herbicides can also be used for control at all lifestages.

Look-alikes: Norway Maples look similar to Sugar Maples. They can be distinguished by cutting into the leaf stalk - the Norway maple will have a milky substance ooze out. In addition, the bud tips of the Norway Maples are less pointy than of the Sugar Maple.



Flower Time and Description: Small yellowish flowers tend to show in April-May. They form in clusters.