



## Red Maple – *Acer Rubrum*

**Description:** Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) is also known as scarlet maple, swamp maple, soft maple, Drummond red maple, and water maple. It may grow fast with good form and quality for saw logs. It ranks high in landscapes and is widely used as a shade and ornamental tree. Red maple has right red or yellow foliage early in the fall.



**Leaf:** Opposite, simple, 3 to 5 palmate lobes with serrated margin, sinuses relatively shallow (but highly variable), 2 to 4 inches long; green above, whitened and sometimes powdery or hairy beneath.

**Flower:** Attractive but small, occur in hanging clusters, usually bright red but occasionally yellow, appear in early spring, usually before leaves.

**Fruit:** Clusters of 1/2 to 3/4 inch long samaras with slightly divergent wings, on long slender stems. Light brown and often reddish, ripen in late spring and early summer.

**Twig:** Reddish and lustrous with small lenticels, buds usually blunt, green or reddish (fall and winter) with several loose scales usually present, leaf scars V-shaped, 3 bundle scars, lateral buds slightly stalked, may be collateral buds present.

**Bark:** On young trees, smooth and light gray, with age becomes darker and breaks up into long, fine scaly plates.

**Form:** Medium sized tree up to 90 feet. In forest, trunk usually clear for some distance, in the open the trunk is shorter and the crown rounded.

### Site requirements:

Red maple grows on diverse sites, from dry ridges and southwest slopes to peat bogs and swamps. Red maple's ability to thrive in a wide range of wet and dry conditions surpasses the tolerance capabilities of most other species. In the extreme south, red maple is almost exclusively a swamp species.

### Native Range: Zone 4-8

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WI, WV

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