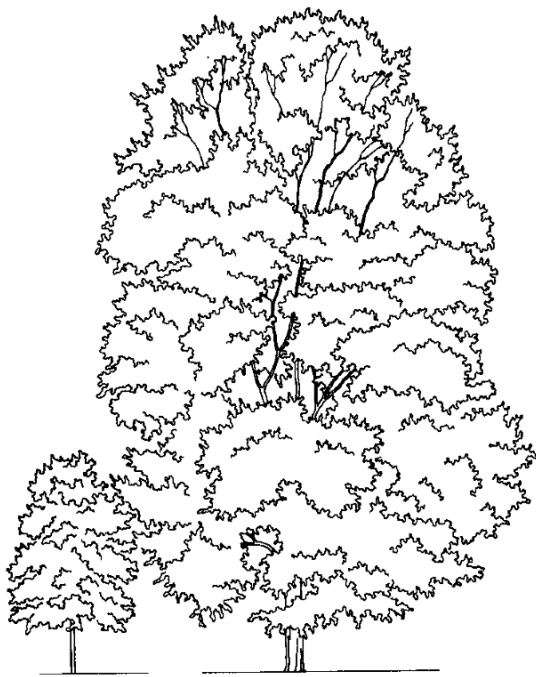


Plant Health Care Recommendations for Red Maple

Red maple is a medium size shade tree which grows in most landscapes. During the summer it has deep green leaves. It is one of the earliest trees to flower in the spring and provides dramatic color in the fall. Many red maple cultivars have been selected for fall color and specific crown shapes.



are not available to the plant which increases the probability of chlorosis.

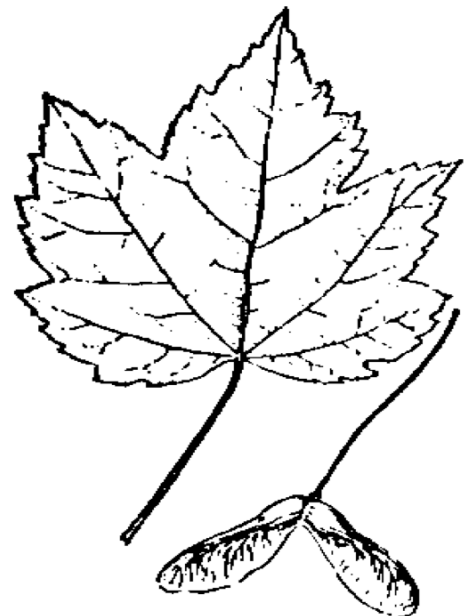
Red maple is susceptible to a number of leaf spot diseases which may disfigure leaves and cause early defoliation. Cankers, diseases of the bark, occur mainly after severe winters.

Red maple is native from Maine to Florida, west to Wisconsin and is adapted to a wide variety of acidic soils. It tolerates both very dry and moist sites but grows best in moist well drained soils. Growth is fastest in full sun, however, the tree will tolerate shade when it is young.

Yellowing between the veins of leaves, interveinal chlorosis, is a symptom of manganese deficiency. This problem occurs on soils with high pH, low manganese levels and or poor drainage. Trees with root disorders are more prone to nutrient deficiency.

When soil pH is greater than 6.0,

manganese is converted to forms which



They cause limb dieback and can kill the tree if they progress into the stem. Root and wilt diseases caused by *Verticillium*, *Phytophthora*, *Armillaria* and nematodes can cause dieback of the crown and eventual death. Red maple is susceptible to several important decay fungi which attack the wood. These fungi enter through improper pruning cuts and other injuries to the trunk and limbs. Decay can structurally weaken the trunk, increasing the potential for tree failure.

There are numerous insects and mites which may attack red maples. Leaf feeding caterpillars include gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) and tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma distria*). Galls on the leaf are caused by a number of mites or midges which lay eggs early in the spring. White coatings on twigs is caused by the cottony maple scale (*Pulvinaria innumerabilis*). Aphids can also cause blackening of leaves (sooty mold) and reduction of vigor.

Sapsuckers and squirrels both attack red maples to drink the sweet sap. These wounds may girdle the trunk or provide entry for canker fungi.

Recommended Monitoring of Red Maple

Timing	Treatment
Winter and	Corrective prune to remove dead, dying diseased limbs interfering limbs. Inspect root collar, take soil sample.
Mid spring	Anthrachnose and leaf spot suppression treatment,
Late spring	Monitor leaf feeding and scale insects. Repeat soil
Early summer	Monitor leaf feeding and scale insects. Repeat leaf disease treatment if needed.
Summer	Monitor soil moisture, especially on newly planted trees.
Fall	Continue with soil treatments for pH problems. Fertilize as needed.

Systemic injections are available to treat manganese deficiency. This treatment is most effective when applied in early spring, prior or immediately after budbreak. It should not be repeated more than once every three years. A soil applied systemic insecticide may be used in the fall to reduce the next years infestation of aphids, scale and midges.