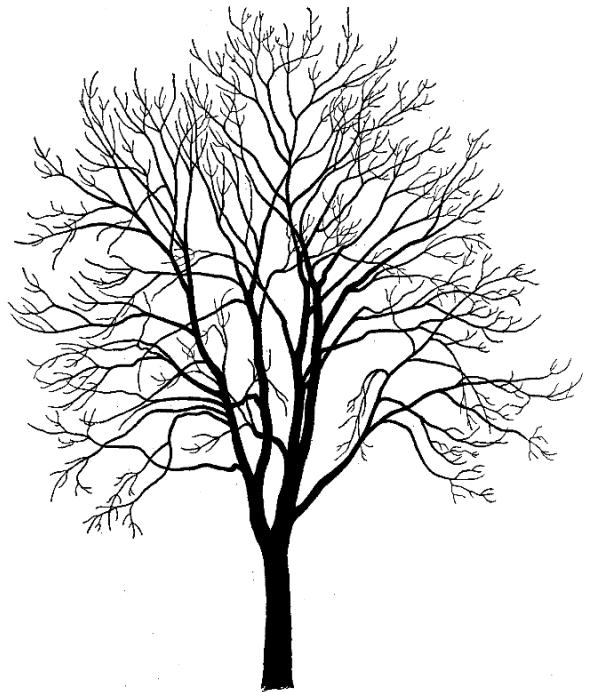


Plant Health Care Recommendations for Norway Maple

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) is a medium to large size shade tree for many northern landscapes. Spring leaves range from green to dark red, most varieties changing to dark green in the summer then yellow in the fall. When summer color is desirable ‘Crimson King’ is a good selection for summer long maroon. Norway maple will grow to a height of 50 to 75 feet in the landscape and has a rounded crown typically 2/3 of the height wide, upright varieties such as ‘Columnare’ are available. The crown is very dense, producing deep shade beneath the tree.

The ability to grow in tough urban sites makes Norway maple desirable in many areas. It can withstand a diversity of site conditions, including restricted rooting area such as between the street and sidewalk. A Norway maple grows in a large range of soil textures from sands to moderately compacted clays. Soil pH range is much greater than sugar maple tolerating both acidic and slightly alkaline conditions from pH of 4 to 7.5. Resistance to air pollution is very good, tolerating ozone and sulfur dioxide. Growth is fastest in full sun; however, the tree will tolerate shade when it is young.



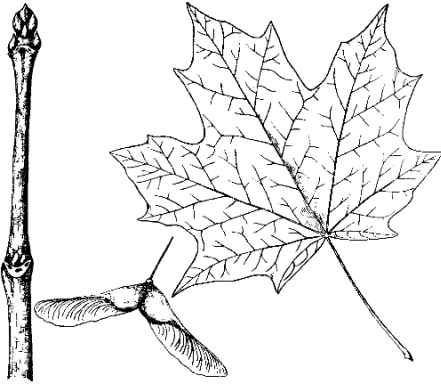
Norway maple grows in a broad range of geographic areas from northern Texas and Georgia north to Wisconsin and New Hampshire in climate zones 4 through 7. It usually tolerates cold quite well, however sudden drops in temperature will predispose to infection by canker fungi and can cause frost cracks.

Drawbacks of Norway maple include limb breakage during storms and the combination of a very dense canopy and shallow root system. This combination greatly restricts the growth of grass and other ground covers under Norway maple. The best material to cover the soil with under Norway maple is mulch. This eliminates the need for light and the damage done to roots by mowers.

Norway maple is susceptible to a number of leaf spot diseases that may disfigure leaves and cause early defoliation. Cankers, diseases of the bark, occur mainly after severe winters or extended droughts. 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. Norway maple is susceptible to several important decay fungi that 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 many insects and mites that may attack maples. Leaf feeding caterpillars include gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma distria*) and cankerworms. Aphids and scale can cause dripping of sap onto surfaces below the tree. When a fungus grows in the sap, it becomes black. Twig borers or twig girdlers cause twig or leaf drop during the summer.



Sapsuckers, deer and squirrels attack sugar maples to eat or drink the sweet sap. These wounds may girdle the trunk or provide entry for canker fungi.

Drought leads to decline and occasionally physiological leaf scorch, which appears as marginally browning during the summer. Mulching trees, especially when young will aid in conserving soil moisture.

Recommended Monitoring of Norway Maple

Timing	Treatment
Winter	Corrective prune* to remove dead, dying, diseased and interfering limbs. Crown thinning may be required on some trees to allow light penetration and air movement. Inspect root collar, take soil sample. Inspect for scale, cankers and twig borers. Treat if needed. Young tree may need protection from deer feeding and sunscald if in exposed sites.
Mid spring	Apply anthracnose and leaf spot suppression treatment, if there is a history of disease or excessive rain.
Late spring	Monitor leaf-feeding and scale insects. Repeat soil and leaf disease treatments as needed.
Early summer	Monitor leaf-feeding and scale insects. Repeat leaf disease treatment if needed.
Summer	Monitor soil moisture, especially on newly planted trees. Inspect for and treat leaf-feeding insects. Check mulch level, add mulch if needed.
Fall	Fertilize* as needed. Begin deer repellent treatments on young trees if needed. Soil inject systemic insecticide if sucking insects are a problem.

*Treatment may be done at other time if needed.