

Maple

Latin name : Acer | **Family :** Sapindaceae **Genus :** Acer

RECOGNIZING SYCAMORE MAPLE AND NORWAY MAPLE

The sycamore maple can be distinguished from the Norway maple by:

Sycamore maple	Norway maple
Its ample crown	Its sparse crown
Its gray-yellow bark which later turns reddish-brown and scaly	Its gray-brown bark with vertical cracks
Its paired winged seeds (or samaras) with a small angle between them	Its samaras, the wings of which are separated by a wide angle

Sycamore maple

Its opposite leaves with five narrowly-separated oval lobes

Norway maple

Its opposite leaves with five more widely-separated pointed lobes



SITES FAVORED BY MAPLE

Temperatures

Annual average between 5 and 10°C. It is a mesophilic species and likes semi-shaded conditions.

Rainfall

Annual average between 600 and 1,000 mm per year. Very high atmospheric humidity. Can be found from the colline to subalpine level, if water is plentiful. Relatively resistant to drought, varies according to origin.

Soils

It prefers rich, permeable soils, especially on cool slopes and soils of average depth.

Temperatures preferred by the Norway maple

Annual average between 5 and 10°C. It likes semi-shaded conditions.

Rainfall required by the Norway maple

Annual average between 600 and 1,000 mm per year. This species is more drought-resistant. It is found up to altitudes of 1,500 meters.

Soils preferred by the Norway pine

It is found on rich, cool, well-aired soils with a clay or silt base, or on chalky soils.

ROOT DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAPLE

- > Oblique, well-branched
- > Stable with good wind resistance.

MAPLE PLANTATION

Species	Density	Spacing	Benefits and drawbacks
Sycamore maple	400 to 1000 plants/ha	50 x 50 cm	Rapid growth (2 meters in 4 years). Pruning essential. Dynamic regeneration means the species can become invasive.
Norway maple	400 to 1000 plants/ha	50 x 50 cm	Thinning out is essential. Pruning essential. Dynamic regeneration means the species can become invasive.

Final density: 150 stems/hectare

GROWTH AND PRODUCTION OF MAPLE

- > Relatively fast the first years, then slows down.
- > Production of 5-10 m³/ha/year.

MAPLE WOOD

- > Homogenous white or pinkish wood, hard.
- > Sawing can be difficult. Drying can cause deformation.
- > Excellent wood, favored for making string instruments and for interior fittings.
- > Also used in the paper industry.
- > Trade name: White maple.

HEALTH



Verticillium wilt



Honey fungus

Economic view

Maple is one of the most noble and most emblematic deciduous species.

It is best-known for what people call 'white gold': maple syrup. The maple is relatively productive, especially for its sap, and the production of maple syrup and its derivatives plays a significant role in forestry.

France may not be Canada's biggest competitor in this realm but maple grows well here and the acquisition of a maple forest can be a good investment.

Maple also provides high quality wood, with a fine texture and attractive veining. The wood, which grows perfectly straight, is therefore quite sought-after and often used in instrument making.

In addition, compared to other species, the burrs and faults that can be seen on the surface of maple wood (speckles and other marks) give it its unique character, highly appreciated in luxury moldings, for example.

Its wood is also used for stairs, furniture and makes very good firewood.

It is found along a diagonal line running from northeast to southwest France, with the sycamore maple more frequently found than the Norway maple.

In other words, the maple is sold in several market segments which, when put together, make for a significant economy. It is thus set to remain a permanent fixture on the market so the acquisition of a maple forest is a great opportunity.