

Acer rubrum

Red Maple
Swamp Maple

Native to Maine

Upland

Leaves



Flickr user maggie_and_her_camera



Look for palmate leaves with 3 lobes that are toothed, opposite, and 6-11 cm long. The leaves have shallow V-shaped sinuses (indentations between the lobes) and are dull green on top, with whitish hairs on bottom.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Wiki Commons user Jean-Pol GRANDMONT



Red Maple is a deciduous tree (loses its leaves in the fall) and grows best in bright sun to partial shade. Mature trees are usually around 15 m tall.

Stem



Wiki Commons user Derek Ramsey (Ram-Man)



Twigs of the Red Maple are reddish and shiny. Bark of young trees is pale grey and smooth. Older tree bark is darker and cracks into slightly raised long plates.

Seasonal Change



Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service



In early spring, before the leaves grow, look for clusters of small bright red flowers. In late spring, samaras (dry, winged, one-seeded fruit) ripen and fall from branches.

Similar Species

Sugar Maple looks similar to Red Maple in size and shape. To tell them a part look at the leaves. Red Maple leaves have 3 lobes with V-shaped indentations and a toothed edge, and Sugar Maple leaves have 5 lobes with C-shaped indentations and a smooth edge.

Fun Fact

Red Maple trees are often the first trees to change color in fall. Red Maple leaves change to a variety of different colors ranging from greenish yellow to vibrant scarlet to burgundy.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

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