

Sugar Maple
Acer saccharum



Description: Large, handsome tree (to 100 feet tall, 3 ½ feet diam.) with dense, broad, rounded crown. Leaves opposite, lobed, simple. Fruits paired double propellers. Its excellent shade production from very dense browns and its beautiful fall coloration make it a prized tree for lawns, parks, and street borders

Leaves: Opposite on twig, simple; formed on slender leafstalks 3-4 inches long. Lobes hand-like, 5-lobes with wide notches rounded at angles; edges with few coarse teeth; smooth, bright green above, paler below. Leaves turn bright yellow, orange, or red in autumn

Bark: Smooth, gray to pale tan when young, becoming dark gray and deeply furrowed to shaggy with age

Flowers: Flowers soft yellow-green without petals, open before leafing, unisexual, male and female flowers on same tree; each flower hanging on long (1-3 inches) threadlike, slender stalks

Fruits: Fruits medium (to 1 ¼ inches), paired, U-shaped with parallel wings about 1 inch long; mature in autumn; easily scattered in the wind

Habitat/Range: Moist upland sites with deep, fertile soils; a major component of such old-growth forests, especially, since it is a slow-growing, long-lived species. Aggressive reproduction under forest canopies permits it to replace oaks in many stands. Range, throughout Indiana