



WACD Plant Materials Center

SUGAR MAPLE

- Common Name:** Sugar Maple
- Scientific Name:** *Acer saccharum*
- Distribution:** Sugar Maple is native to the northeastern half of the U.S.
- Growth Habit:** Sugar Maple is a vigorous growing upright deciduous shade tree. It can grow over 100 feet tall, with a trunk that can reach 3 feet in diameter at maturity.
- Adaptability:** Sugar Maple is a species that is highly adaptable to a wide range of habitats. It grows best in sites that receive ample sun with moist, well-drained soils. It is tolerant of moderate shade and soils that range from dry to wet. Reduced growth rate and form will result when grown in these less favorable conditions.
- Comments:** Sugar Maple is a valuable species for many reasons. It is adaptable to a variety of sites, often growing where other trees won't. Sugar Maple is an attractive ornamental species. It develops a broad canopy covered in large attractive dark-green leaves through the growing season. In autumn its leaves turn colors that range from orange to bright yellow. It is an important hardwood timber species in its native range. On favorable sites it produces large, straight boles whose wood is prized for furniture building. Its sap is used for maple syrup. Trees are tapped in early spring and the sap collected. The sugar in the sap is concentrated by evaporating excess water off through boiling. 34 gallons of sap are required to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup.

