### Red Maple
* *Acer rubrum*

#### Bark
- **Texture**: Older trees: ridged and broken into plate-like scales. Young trees: smooth.
- **Color**: Dark gray on older trunks, light gray on young trees

#### Leaves
- **Lobes/Shape**: 3–5 lobes. Sides of terminal lobe converge, notches between lobes V-shaped
- **Margin**: Irregularly doubly toothed
- **Surface**: Under-surface slightly white

#### Flower
- **Appearance**: Scarlet or yellow-red, appears before the leaves

#### Buds
- **Length**: Terminal bud—\(\frac{1}{6}\) inch
- **Shape**: Blunt-pointed, as long as broad
- **Color**: Dark red

#### Fruit
- **Shape**: Paired, slightly divergent
- **Seed Body**: Oval in outline
- **Wing**: Reddish; \(\frac{3}{4}\) inch long

### Sugar Maple
* *Acer saccharum*

#### Bark
- **Texture**: Older trees: rough and deeply furrowed. Young trees: smooth and slightly fissured.
- **Color**: Gray on older trunks, light gray on young trees

#### Leaves
- **Lobes/Shape**: 3–5 lobes, sinuous, sides of terminal lobes flare outward, notches between lobes rounded
- **Margin**: Sparsely toothed
- **Surface**: Under-surface pale green

#### Flower
- **Appearance**: Greenish-yellow, appears with the leaves

#### Buds
- **Length**: Terminal bud—\(\frac{1}{4}\) inch
- **Shape**: Sharp-pointed, many scales showing
- **Color**: Purplish-brown to gray

#### Fruit
- **Shape**: Paired and slightly divergent
- **Seed Body**: Round
- **Wing**: 1 inch long

### Silver Maple
* *Acer saccharinum*

#### Bark
- **Texture**: Older trees: somewhat furrowed, separates into thin plates. Young trees: smooth.
- **Color**: Dark gray on older trunks, gray on young trees

#### Leaves
- **Lobes/Shape**: 5 lobes, rarely 3; lobes long and narrow like fingers on a hand
- **Margin**: Irregularly and sharply toothed
- **Surface**: Under-surface silvery white

#### Flower
- **Appearance**: Greenish-yellow or pinkish, appears long before the leaves

#### Buds
- **Length**: Terminal bud—\(\frac{1}{8}\) inch
- **Shape**: Blunt-pointed, slightly ridged
- **Color**: Bright red above, green below

#### Fruit
- **Shape**: Paired, but with one usually abortive
- **Seed Body**: Football-shaped
- **Wing**: Strongly divergent, 2 inches long and hooked
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Striped Maple</th>
<th>Mountain Maple</th>
<th>Norway Maple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BARK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TEXTURE</strong></td>
<td>Marked with whitish stripes running lengthwise on trunk</td>
<td>Smooth when young; shallowly furrowed when older</td>
<td>Smooth when young; regularly furrowed on older trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLOR</strong></td>
<td>Reddish-brown or dark green</td>
<td>Reddish-brown to gray</td>
<td>Gray when young, gray-brown on older trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEAVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOBES/SHAPE</strong></td>
<td>3 lobes, shaped; like a duck’s foot, thin</td>
<td>Usually 3 lobes, sometimes 5</td>
<td>5–7 lobes, blade wider than tall, stems exude a milky sap when broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARGIN</strong></td>
<td>Edges finely and sharply-toothed</td>
<td>Coarsely-toothed</td>
<td>Sparsely toothed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURFACE</strong></td>
<td>Under-surface pale green; pubescent</td>
<td>Prominently sunken veins on the upper surface</td>
<td>Very dark green; some cultivars red or deep purple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOWER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPEARANCE</strong></td>
<td>Bright yellow, appears after leaves are full grown</td>
<td>Yellow-green in long clusters after the leaves are full grown</td>
<td>Yellow-green, appear before the leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LENGTH</strong></td>
<td>Terminal bud—½ inch</td>
<td>Terminal bud—½ inch</td>
<td>&gt;¼ inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHAPE</strong></td>
<td>Distinctly stalked with 2 scales showing</td>
<td>Slender and pointed, slightly stalked</td>
<td>Turban-shaped, blunt-pointed, large scales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLOR</strong></td>
<td>Bright red</td>
<td>Green to red</td>
<td>Green to purple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRUIT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHAPE</strong></td>
<td>Paired and moderately divergent</td>
<td>Paired, slightly divergent, ascending clusters</td>
<td>Paired, flattened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEED BODY</strong></td>
<td>Large smooth depression in seed body</td>
<td>Wrinkled depression on seed body</td>
<td>Flattened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WING</strong></td>
<td>Reddish-brown; ¾ inch long</td>
<td>Slightly divergent; ½ inch long</td>
<td>Strongly divergent, leathery; 2 inches long</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Key does not include boxelder. Boxelder (page 84–85) is the only maple in Maine with compound leaves.
Red Maple *Acer rubrum* L.

Red maple—also known as soft, white or swamp maple—occurs throughout the state. A rapid grower and the most abundant of the maples, it is typically found in swamps and poorly drained sites, but also occurs elsewhere. The red maple is a medium-sized, slender tree that becomes 50–60 feet high, and 1–2 feet in diameter. The branches are upright, forming a somewhat narrow head. Usually the trunk is not divided.

The bark on young trees is smooth and light gray. On old trunks, it is dark gray, ridged and broken into plate-like scales.
The leaves are opposite, 3–5 inches long, with 3–5 lobes and margins that are irregularly double-toothed. The upper surface is light green; lower surface is white. The sides of the terminal lobe converge toward the tip; and the notches between lobes are V-shaped. In fall, the leaves turn scarlet and orange.

The flowers are produced in clusters on stalks before leaf buds open. Males are yellowish-red while females are bright scarlet. The red maple is one of the first trees to flower in spring.

The fruit is winged, ripens in spring or early summer, and germinates as soon as it falls. Wings are only slightly divergent, about ¾ inch long. The seed body lacks a depression.

The twigs are straight, stiff, do not have a rank odor when broken, and are red on both surfaces. Buds are red and often clustered.

The wood is close-grained, heavy, moderately strong, easily worked but not durable, although it will take a good polish. It is used mainly for pulp and firewood, but also for pallets, furniture stock, canoe paddles and turnery products. As sugar maple becomes more expensive, more mills are using red maple. It is also commonly used for landscape plantings.
Sugar, rock or hard maple is found abundantly throughout the state on moist, rocky slopes, but grows best on moist, upland soils. In the forest, it grows to 60–70 feet and a diameter of 20–30 inches. The top is short and spreading. In the open, the branches begin 8–10 feet up, forming an egg-shaped head when the tree is young and a broad, rounded top when older. It makes an attractive street or ornamental tree, but it is sensitive to road salt. Maple sugar and syrup are made largely from the sap of this tree, although sugar is present in the sap of all maples.

Historically, sugar maple was used to make parts for sleighs, sleds, pungs (low, one-horse box sleighs) and buggy shafts.

Sugar Maple Acer saccharum Marsh.
Bark on young trees and large branches is smooth or slightly fissured and pale. Some trees have oval light-colored blotches on the bark. Older trees are deeply furrowed and light to darker gray. Leaves are opposite, with 3–5 lobes, sparingly-toothed, 3–5 inches long, dark green above, pale green below. Sides of the terminal lobe are parallel or divergent; and notches between lobes are U-shaped. In autumn, leaves turn various shades of red, scarlet, orange or yellow.

Flowers are greenish-yellow, pendulous, appear on long, slender, hairy stalks and in clusters, with the leaves. The fruit is paired, round with wings that are about 1 inch long and slightly divergent. It ripens in the fall. The twigs are brown with sharp-pointed brown buds.

The wood is heavy, close-grained, strong and hard. It is used for furniture, flooring, tool handles, veneer, railroad ties, novelties, dowels, woodenware, canoe paddles, firewood and pulp. “Birds-eye” and curly-patterned maple is in high demand in the furniture and veneer industry. Historically, sugar maple was used to make parts for sleighs, sleds, pungs (low, one-horse box sleighs) and buggy shafts.
Silver Maple *Acer saccharinum* L.

Abundant in some localities, silver maple is a common tree, found throughout the state except along the coast. It grows largely on sandy banks along streams, usually attaining a height of 60–80 feet and a diameter of 2–3 feet. The trunk normally separates into 3 or 4 upright secondary stems, devoid of branches for some distance. The branches are long and slender, often pendulous.

The bark on young trees is smooth, gray, slightly tinged with red. On old trees, it is reddish-brown, furrowed, and separated into large thin scales that are loose at the bottom. Twigs are chestnut brown and shiny.

The leaves are opposite, deeply five-lobed; and the edges are irregular and sharply toothed. The upper surface is pale green, the lower, silvery white. They turn a pale yellow in fall.

In Maine, silver maple is most common along major rivers.
The **flowers** are on very short stalks and in clusters. They are greenish-yellow or sometimes pinkish, opening early, long before the leaves appear.

The **fruit** is paired, winged and ripens in spring. Frequently, one of the pair does not fully develop. The **twigs** are curved upward at the tip, orange or red-brown above and green below, slender, with a bitter taste and a rank odor when broken.

The **wood** is softer than that of the hard maple, close-grained, not durable and easily worked. It is used to a limited extent for pulp.
Striped Maple *Acer pensylvanicum* L.

Striped maple or moosewood is common throughout the state. It is a shade-loving tree that is found growing with other hardwoods, or occasionally with conifers, on rich, moist soils or rocky slopes. Of little value except for its beauty, it rarely exceeds a height of 25 feet and a diameter of 8 inches. The branches are slender and upright, and the top narrow and often short.

The bark on the trunk is reddish-brown or dark green, and marked by whitish lines running lengthwise, which turn brown after a time. The leaves are three-lobed toward the apex, resembling a goose foot, opposite, finely toothed, pale green, 5–6 inches long and about as broad. In fall they turn light yellow.

*The striped maple is a shade-loving tree that is usually found growing with other hardwoods.*
The flowers are bright yellow in slender drooping racemes that open the end of May or early June, when the leaves are fully grown. The fruit is paired, with wings moderately divergent, fully grown in late summer. It has a smooth, oval depression in the seed body. The twigs are smooth, reddish or greenish; the buds are valve-like, stout, stalked and without hairs.

The wood is close-grained, light and soft. During spring when the cambium layer is active, it is easy to make a whistle from the smaller branch sections.
Mountain Maple  *Acer spicatum* Lam.

Mountain maple occurs throughout Maine and is especially common in the northern part of the state. It grows as a small bushy tree, seldom over 30 feet in height. At times, the tree forms fairly dense thickets, due to its habit of growing in clumps. It grows best in a wet habitat or on damp, northern slopes. The slender twigs grow in a somewhat upright position.

*The mountain maple grows as a small bushy tree, seldom over 30 feet in height.*
The bark is reddish-brown to gray, thin and somewhat furrowed. The leaves are opposite, three-lobed, shiny above, somewhat hairy below. They have rather coarse teeth and prominently sunken veins on the upper surface.

The flowers appear in June in long, hairy, yellow-green clusters after the leaves are full grown.

The fruit is paired, with wings slightly divergent, and occurs in ascending clusters. It has a wrinkled depression on the seed body and ripens in early fall.

The twigs are hairy, green, red or reddish-brown, not striped; and the pith is brown. The buds are hairy, valve-like, green, and only slightly stalked, slender and pointed.

The wood is close-grained, soft, light and not used commercially.
Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* L.

Native to continental Europe, Norway maple thrives in a wide variety of conditions, grows rapidly and casts a deep shade. Because of its aesthetic appeal and ease of propagation, it has been planted across Maine as a street and shade tree. It has escaped into the wild around many of our cities and towns, particularly in the southern half of the state. Because of its aggressive nature, Norway maple is considered to be a serious potential threat to our native flora and further planting of it is discouraged.

The bark of young trees is gray and smooth. Bark of older trees is gray-brown to almost black, and broken into long, interlacing vertical furrows.

Norway maple is not native to Maine. Because of its aggressive nature, it is considered to be a serious potential threat to our native flora and further planting of it is discouraged.

Norway maple drawing by Anna Anisko, used with the permission of the Pennsylvania Flora Project, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.
The **leaves** are opposite, with 5–7 lobes, and very dark green. The leaf blade is usually broader than it is long. Early in summer, the petiole will exude a white milky sap when broken. This characteristic is not shared by any of our native maples.

The **flowers** are bright yellow-green and appear in spring before the leaves.

The **fruits** are paired and diverge at a wide angle from each other. Each fruit has a leathery wing attached. The fruit and wing are about 2 inches long, flattened, light brown and mature in the fall.

The **twigs** are stout and brownish. The buds are large and green to purple with large bud scales.

The **wood** is occasionally used for firewood.
Boxelder, or ashleaf maple, is apparently not native to Maine, but has been planted as an ornamental tree throughout the state and has escaped in localized areas near habitation. It was introduced along the St. John River in Aroostook County. It reaches a maximum height of 50 feet and diameter of about 2 feet in Maine. It is a short-lived, fast-growing, brittle tree, prone to wind and ice damage. It can become invasive.

Boxelder is a short-lived, fast-growing, brittle tree, prone to wind and ice damage. It can become invasive.
The bark is light gray and smooth on young stems, becoming roughened and shallow-fissured on older trees.

The leaves are opposite, compound, usually 3–7 leaflets per leaf, rarely nine. The leaflets vary greatly in shape, often lobed and unlobed leaflets are found on the same leaf. Leaflets are occasionally divided into individual blades.

The flowers open just before the leaves in the spring and are yellow-green. They have no petals.

The fruit attains mature size in summer, ripening in autumn. It consists of a double-winged pair of seeds. Wings are only slightly divergent; and the seed body is wrinkled, three times longer than broad.

The twigs are smooth, rather stout, green or maroon, and covered with a white, chalky bloom. The bark yields a pungent odor when bruised.

The wood is light, soft, creamy white, often tinged with green, weak and close-grained. Occasionally it is used for pulp.