



UNIVERSITY OF
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IFAS EXTENSION

Acer platanoides 'Summershade': 'Summershade' Norway Maple¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

Introduction

'Summershade' Norway Maple in cultivation has a height of 40 to 50 feet but can grow taller. The oval crown maintains a central leader and fills with greenish-yellow flowers in the spring.

'Summershade' Norway Maple's dense shade and shallow root system compete with lawn grasses, and the shallow roots can make mowing under the tree difficult. Locate it in a bed with shrubs and groundcovers so the shallow roots will not cause a problem with mowing.

General Information

Scientific name: *Acer platanoides*

Pronunciation: AY-ser plat-uh-NOY-deez

Common name(s): 'Summershade' Norway Maple

Family: *Aceraceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4A through 7A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Acer platanoides* 'Summershade': 'Summershade' Norway Maple

Uses: urban tolerant; specimen; screen; shade; street without sidewalk; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; highway median; Bonsai

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 40 to 60 feet

Spread: 35 to 50 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: oval

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: green

Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown, green

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: lobed, dentate, incised

Leaf shape: star-shaped

Leaf venation: palmate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thick

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: can form large surface roots

Winter interest: no

Outstanding tree: yes

Invasive potential: invasive non-native

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: resistant to pests/diseases

Use and Management

The tree is easily transplanted, grows more quickly than the species, is adapted to a wide variety of soils and has brilliant yellow fall color. It can also tolerate coastal conditions and is adapted to street tree plantings. It is tolerant of urban conditions, including alkaline soil, drought and pollution. Norway Maple can naturalize if located near open areas and roots can heave sidewalks, so locate it at least four to six feet away.

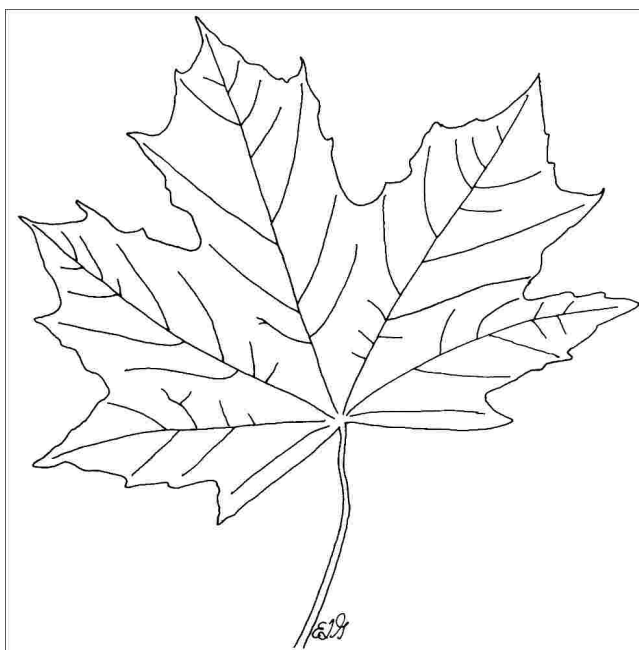


Figure 3. Foliage

'Summershade' is probably the most heat tolerant of the Norway Maples and ranked very high in shade tree trials in Ohio. Since it leafs out late in the spring it can be transplanted later than other cultivars. Seedlings germinate readily in the landscape and could become a weed problem in ground cover and shrubbery beds. Four or five types of birds are known to use seeds as a food source, so it might be best to locate the tree away from a park bench so bird droppings will not soil the bench. Trunks can crack on the southern or western sides during the winter.

A large number of other cultivars are available. Those having colored summer foliage are: 'Crimson King' - oval, 45 feet tall, foliage purple during the summer; 'Drummondii' - leaves edged in white; 'Schwedleri' - oval, 45 feet tall, foliage reddish in the spring then becoming green. Other cultivars are: 'Almira' - round headed, mature height of about 20 feet; 'Cleveland' - upright growth habit, 50 feet tall; 'Columnare' - columnar or upright growth habit, 35 feet tall; 'Deborah' - new leaves appear as a deep red; 'Emerald Queen' - crown oval, growth rate faster, 60 feet tall; 'Erectum' - upright growth habit; 'Globosum' - rounded head, 20 feet tall; 'Greenlace' - cutleaf cultivar with rapid growth rate; 'Olmstead' - upright growth habit, 45 feet tall; 'Superform' - round, 45 feet tall, may show more resistance to frost cracks.

Pests

Aphids infest maples, usually norway maple, and may be numerous at times. High populations can cause leaf drop. Another sign of heavy aphid infestation is honey dew on lower leaves and objects beneath the tree. Aphids are controlled by spraying or they may be left alone. If not sprayed, predatory insects will usually bring the aphid population under control.

Scales are an occasional problem on maples. Perhaps the most common is cottony maple scale. The insect forms a cottony mass on the lower sides of branches. Scales are usually controlled with horticultural oil sprays. Scales may also be controlled with well-timed sprays to kill the crawlers.

If borers become a problem it is an indication the tree is not growing well. Controlling borers involves keeping trees healthy. Chemical controls of existing infestations are more difficult. Proper control involves identification of the borer infesting the tree then applying insecticides at the proper time.

Diseases

It is susceptible to Ganoderma rot.

'Summershade' is susceptible to Verticillium wilt. Symptoms are wilting and death of branches. Infected sapwood will be stained a dark or olive green but staining can't always be found. If staining can not be found do not assume the problem is not verticillium wilt. Severely infected trees probably can't be saved. Lightly infected trees showing only a few wilted branches may be pulled through. Fertilize and prune lightly infected trees. This treatment will not cure the problem but may allow the tree to outgrow the infection. Girdling roots will cause symptoms which mimic verticillium wilt.