



# *Acer pseudoplatanus* Sycamore Maple<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

This large deciduous tree is normally seen at 40 to 60 feet in height although Sycamore Maple is capable of reaching over 100 feet in height (Fig. 1). The spreading branches form an oval or rounded canopy and the dark green, three to seven-inch-diameter, lobed leaves do not ordinarily become showy in the fall, changing only to a muted yellow before dropping, but this will vary. The gray to reddish-brown, scaly bark flakes off in small scales to reveal the showy, orange, inner bark. The green, springtime flowers appear in three to six-inch-long hanging panicles among the leaves in late spring and are followed by one to two-inch-long, winged seeds.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Acer pseudoplatanus*

**Pronunciation:** AY-ser soo-doe-PLAT-uh-nus

**Common name(s):** Sycamore Maple, Planetree Maple

**Family:** *Aceraceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 7 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); shade tree; sidewalk cutout (tree pit)

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

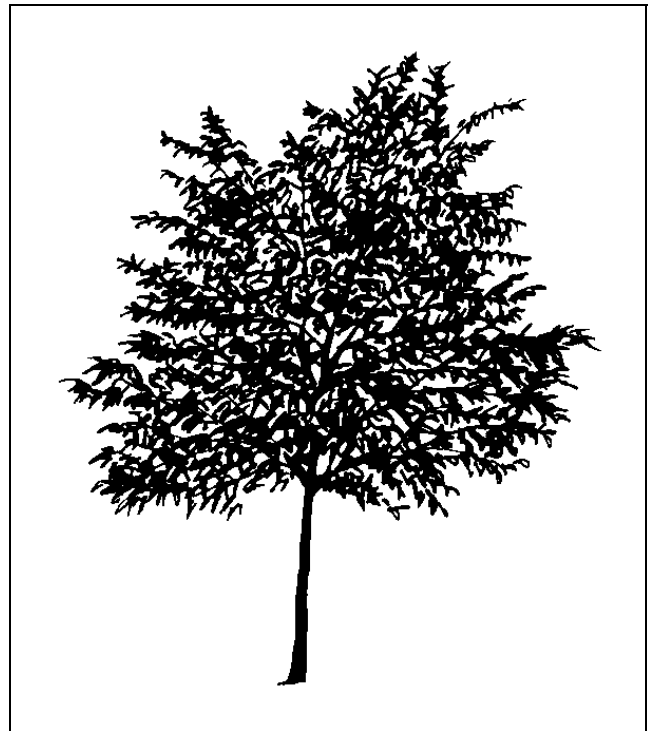


Figure 1. Young Sycamore Maple.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 60 to 70 feet

**Spread:** 40 to 60 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** round; spreading

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** coarse

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-40, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
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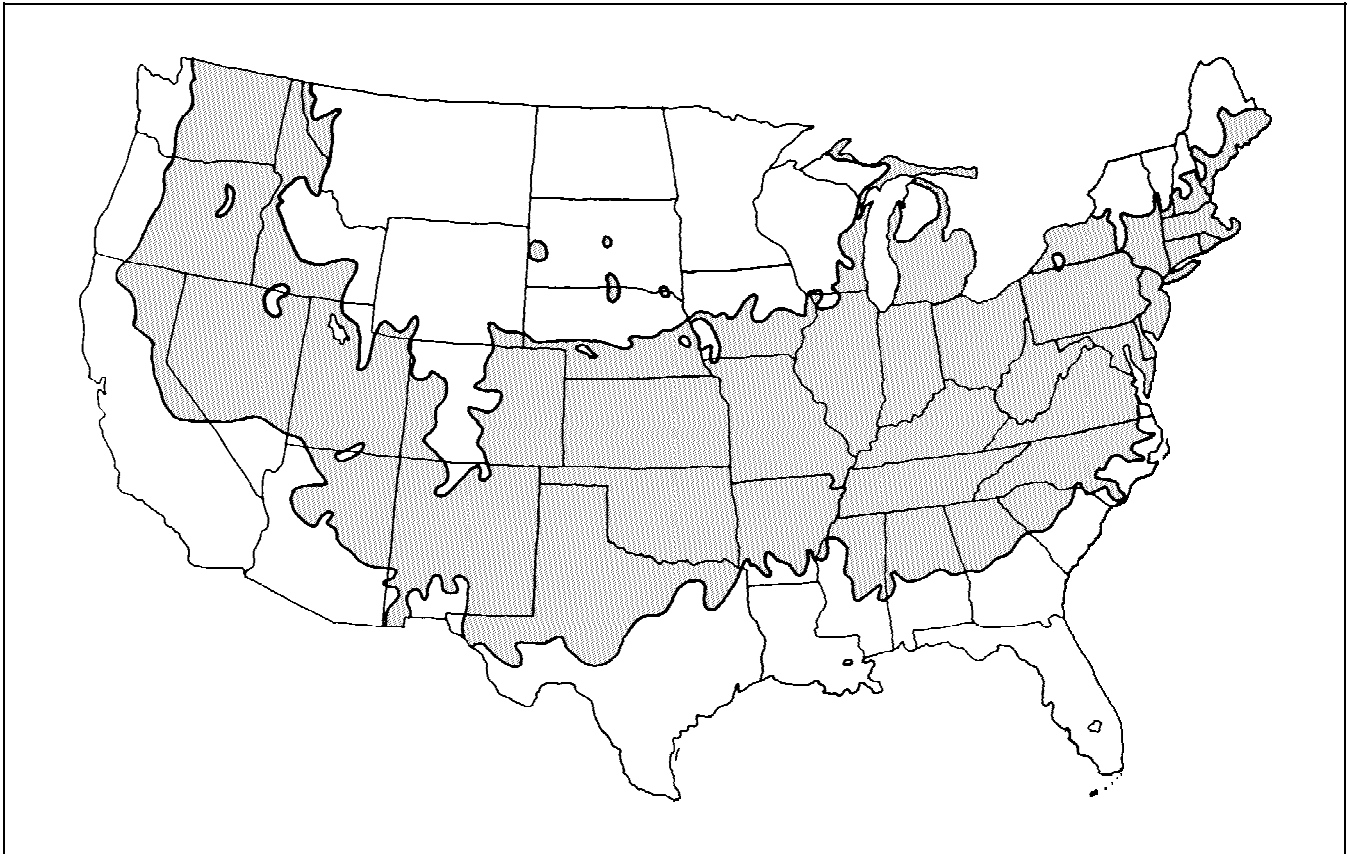


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed; serrate

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**Leaf venation:** palmate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** green

**Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown; gray

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerance:** good

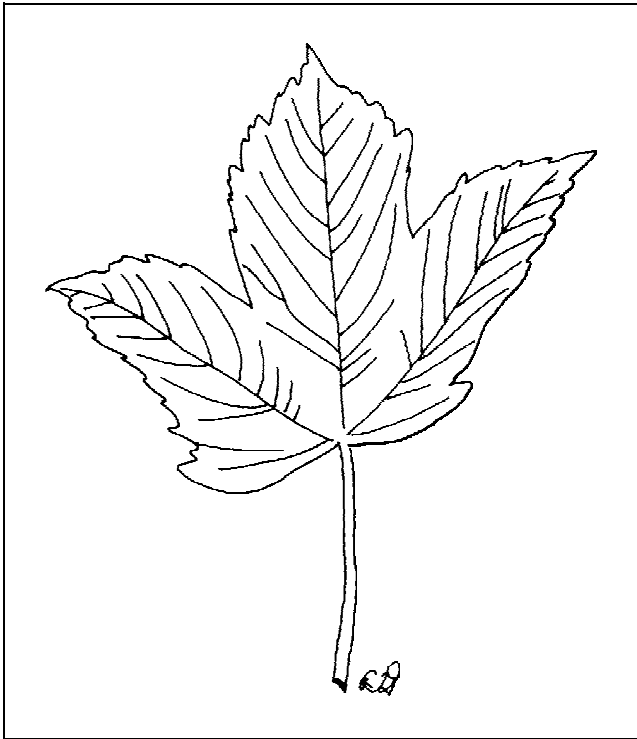


Figure 3. Foliage of Sycamore Maple.

### **Pests**

No pests are of major concern.

### **Diseases**

Sycamore Maple is susceptible to trunk and branch cankers.

### **Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** No entries found.

**Ozone sensitivity:** tolerant

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

## **USE AND MANAGEMENT**

This is a large tree which requires space to spread. Not for the small landscape, its large, falling leaves and early defoliation in the fall can create a challenge for even the most enthusiastic gardener. Many bags of leaves will be raked from beneath this handsome tree. This tree may be best saved for the park or other large open-space planting site since its coarse texture blends poorly with residential and many commercial landscapes.

Sycamore Maple grows in full sun or partial shade on almost any well-drained soil, acid or alkaline. Sycamore Maple is quite adaptable to various soils and is also highly salt-tolerant. Little pruning is needed to develop a good trunk and branch structure.