



## *Acer triflorum* Three-Flowered Maple<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

Three-Flowered Maple slowly grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet with an equal width, the dense, rounded canopy casting dense shade below (Fig. 1). The 1.5 to 3.5-inch-long, compound leaves are slightly hairy and turn attractive shades of orange and red in the fall before dropping. True to its name, Three-Flowered Maple produces three, greenish-yellow flowers clustered together in springtime and these are followed by 1 to 1.5-inch-long winged seeds which persist on the tree. The red/brown bark is quite attractive and peels off in long, thin strips.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Acer triflorum*

**Pronunciation:** AY-ser try-FLOR-um

**Common name(s):** Three-Flowered Maple

**Family:** *Aceraceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 3B through 7 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); near a deck or patio; screen; trainable as a standard; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

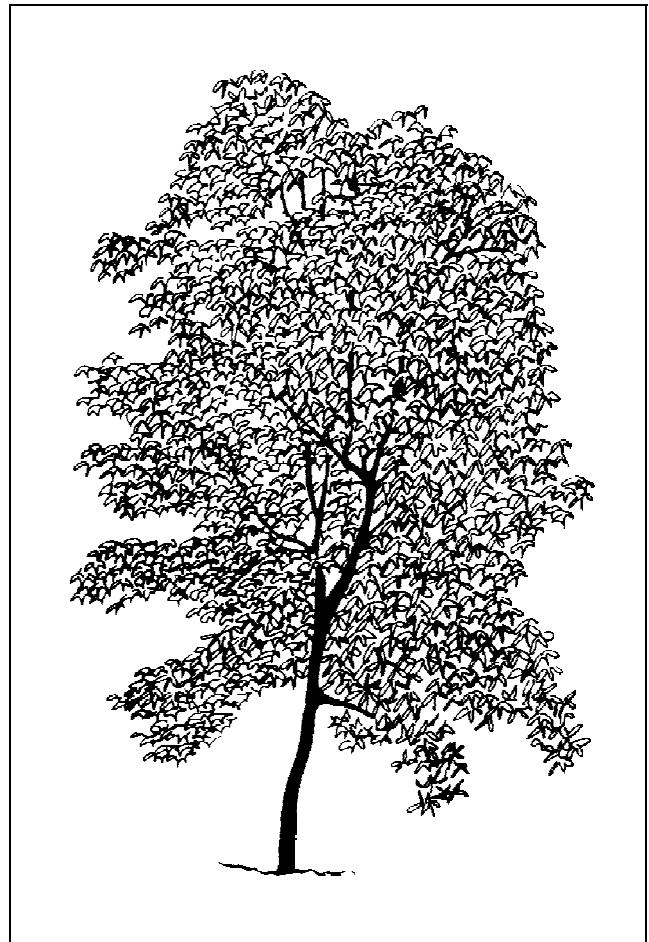


Figure 1. Young Three-Flowered Maple.

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

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

**Leaf type:** odd pinnately compound; trifoliate

**Leaflet margin:** entire

**Leaflet shape:** lanceolate; oblong

**Leaflet venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaflet blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** orange; red; yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** green; yellow

**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; tan

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

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns

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

**Breakage:** resistant

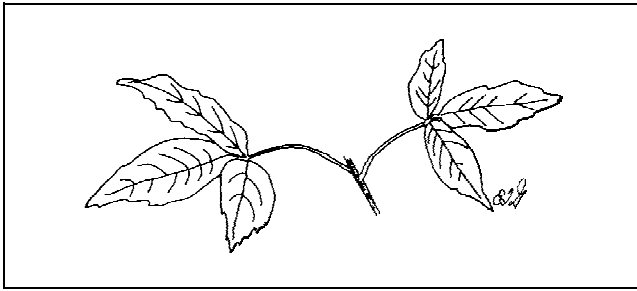


Figure 3. Foliage of Three-Flowered Maple.

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin

### Culture

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

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

### Other

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

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to  
unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter  
trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental  
features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not  
affected by pests

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

This handsome tree is well suited for use as a specimen planted in the lawn or in a low ground cover. The showy bark and fine texture combine to generate a striking display during the growing season. It provides interest in the winter when branches are bare to show the darkened bark which contrasts nicely against snow.

Three-Flowered Maple grows best in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soil. Due to its shallow root system, Three-Flowered Maple will not tolerate soil compaction. It does not tolerate soil which remains wet for periods of time.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.