

# *Acer platanoides* L.

## Norway Maple

Aceraceae  
Section *Platanoidea*

Named by Linnaeus in 1753; in cultivation centuries prior.  
Introduced to England 1683, to U.S. 1870.  
Specific epithet: *Platanoides*, like a *Platanus* (Sycamore)  
Native range: Northern Europe

Maxwell Arboretum Locations:  
Straight species: Northeast (2), Holdrege Frontage West (1) planted 1985, Holdrege Frontage East (1) planted spring 1990  
'Emerald Lustre'® ('Pond'): Yeutter East  
'Jade Glen'™: Holdrege Frontage East (1), planted spring 1990  
'Olmstead': CYT Library SW (1)  
'Superform': Gazebo south, planted spring 1992

Culture: full sun;  
Norway maples are pollution tolerant and are adaptable to a wide range of soils, including fairly dry for a maple.

A medium sized tree (40-50' × almost as much) with a rounded, broadly spreading crown.

Flowers: significant and good  
creamy  
early spring  
1/3" corymbs

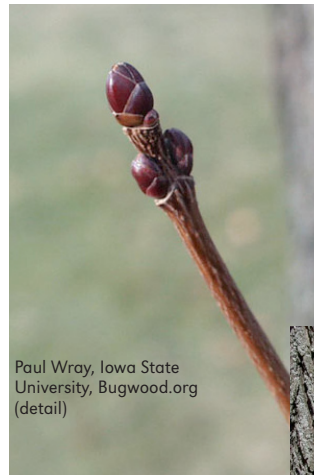
Leaves: dark green above, glabrous  
4-7" × same  
palmate, 5-lobed, acuminate  
fall color: yellow, gold, orange-red

Fruit: samara (schizocarp)  
yellowish-brown  
wings: angle nearly horizontal  
each wing 1.5-2.5"  
nutlets flat

Bark: black-brown, ridged and furrowed with age  
Twig: smooth and glabrous  
Buds: large rounded terminal bud, all buds can have maroon tinge

Maintenance: minimal  
Pruning: minimal  
Insect and Disease Problems: verticillium wilt can be a concern; none of the specimens in Maxwell have serious problems  
Landscape Use: generally overused; parks, streets, large residential

Norway Maple has many excellent cultivars, but Dirr writes that it has been "overused and over-rated." Nevertheless, the species was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of garden Merit in 1993.  
The sap of the Norway Maple is milky.



## *Acer platanoides* Cultivars in Maxwell Arboretum

'**Emerald Lustre**'® ('Pond') Introduced by Bailey Nurseries, 1979. 50-60' × same. Round-oval canopy, glossy green foliage, yellow fall foliage; selected by Don Pond. From the patent application: "A new and distinct variety of Norway Maple, botanically known as *Acer platanoides* is provided. The new variety is distinguished from the regular Norway Maple by a marked tendency to branch at an early stage of development and a more vigorous growth habit. Also, the leaves of the new variety are darker green in color, and less pronounced lenticels are exhibited." PP4,837; April 13, 1982. MAP NUMBER: 1

'**Jade Glen**' J. Frank Schmidt & Son introduction, 1970. 40-50' × same, rounded canopy, fast growing, more open crown, yellow fall foliage. McGill & Son Nursery. MAP NUMBER: 2

'**Olmsted**' E.H. Scanlon & Associates. 35-45×20-25', wide columnar/pyramidal. Original selection from Rochester, NY. Introduced as Improved Columnar Norway, 1955; reintroduced as 'Olmsted', 1960. Named for the famous landscape architect. MAP NUMBER: 3

'**Superform**' J. Frank Schmidt & Son, 1969. Straight trunk, good form, rapid growth, heavydark-green foliage. Name changed from 'Miller's Superform' when Schmidt took over Milton Nursery originator of the cultivar. MAP NUMBER: 4



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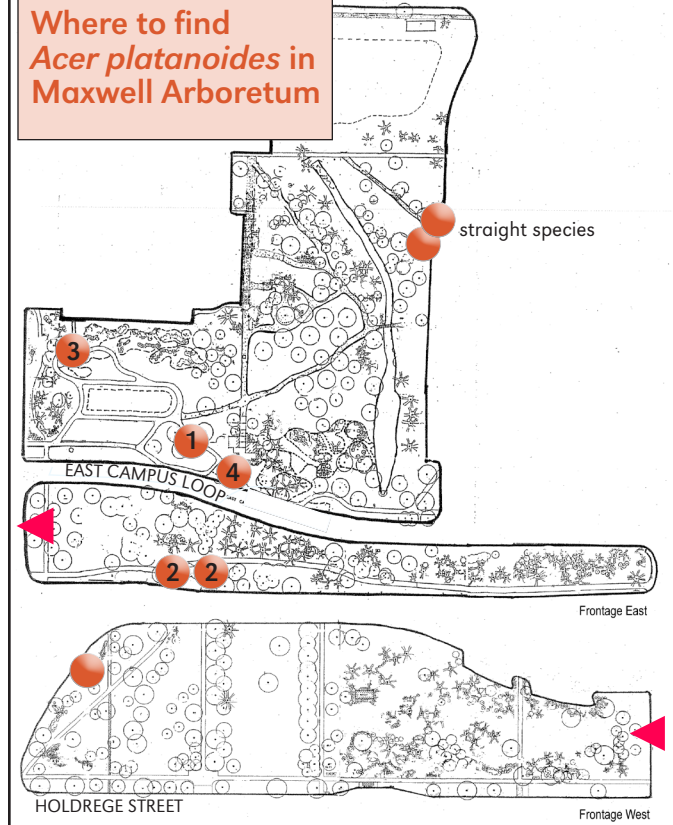


From: *Afbeeldingen der fraaiste, meest uitheemsche boomen en heesters* by Johan Carl Krauss. Amsterdam, Johannes Allart, 1802 [-1808]. Hand-coloured engraving (sheet 230 x 280 mm).



1. Branchlet with corymb, terminating developing young shoots (a - e) with deciduous (typically green) transitional leaves at their base (k).  
 - 2. Branchlet with mature leaves and ripe fruits (double samaras). Stalk exuding a milky sap when broken. Wings of the samaras spread perpendicular to the pedicels («horizontally spreading»), with conspicuously flat nutlets.  
 - 3. Seedling with cotyledons (c) and first pair of ordinary leaves.  
 - 4. Winter-branchlet; buds are reddish-brown, glossy, terminal bud is larger. Leaf-scars are opposite, horseshoe- or heart-shaped and connected extreme laterally. After Hempel & Wilhelm, 1889. Photos and explanations from the book: Zelimir Borzan. *Tree and Shrub Names in Latin, Croatian, English, and German, with synonyms*, University of Zagreb, 2001. Zelimir Borzan Bugwood.org

### Where to find *Acer platanoides* in Maxwell Arboretum



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