

North Carolina  
**Extension Gardener**  
 Plant Toolbox

## *Acer platanoides*

**Common Name(s):** Harlequin Maple; Norway Maple

### Phonetic Spelling

AY-ser pla-tan-OY-dees

### Description

Shallow roots make it difficult to grow plants underneath; easy to transplant; tolerates air pollution and city conditions; sensitive to 2 4-D herbicide; there are plant improved cultivars. Learn more about "[Acer platanoides 'Stand Fast'](#)"

An easy growing excellent shade or street tree that tolerates heat, drought, urban conditions and pollution. It has a symmetrical, rounded crown and has been used widely as a tree in urban areas of the United States though it is not recommended for many areas now. Prefers full sun to partial shade, a wide range of soils but must be well trained and maintain a medium moisture level. It freely reseeds itself, so be aware you may be pulling up seedlings. Cultivars may offer the best choice for landscaping. It is noted that this species should be given considerable room, as it covers large areas. Some cultivars of this plant have deep purple or maroon leaves.

**Insects, Diseases, and Other Plant Problems:** No serious problems. Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Young tree bark may suffer from sun-scald or frost damage. Its canopy is dense and it has shallow roots which make it very challenging to grown anything under the drip line of the tree. It can be especially bothersome planted near grass, sidewalks or walkways.

### Quick ID Hints:

- opposite
- 5-lobed with sharp points
- hairs in axils of veins

### Cultivars / Varieties:

'Crimson King', 'Crimson Sentry', 'Globosum', 'Stand Fast'



whole tree  
 Tero Laakso  
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flowers  
 Maja Dumat  
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bug  
Flora Cyclam  
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samaras- fruit  
Anja Jonsson  
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Leaf Blade  
Jim Robbins  
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Whole plant  
Jim Robbins  
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Acer platanoides - bark  
Jim Lawrence  
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Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri' - leaf and samaras  
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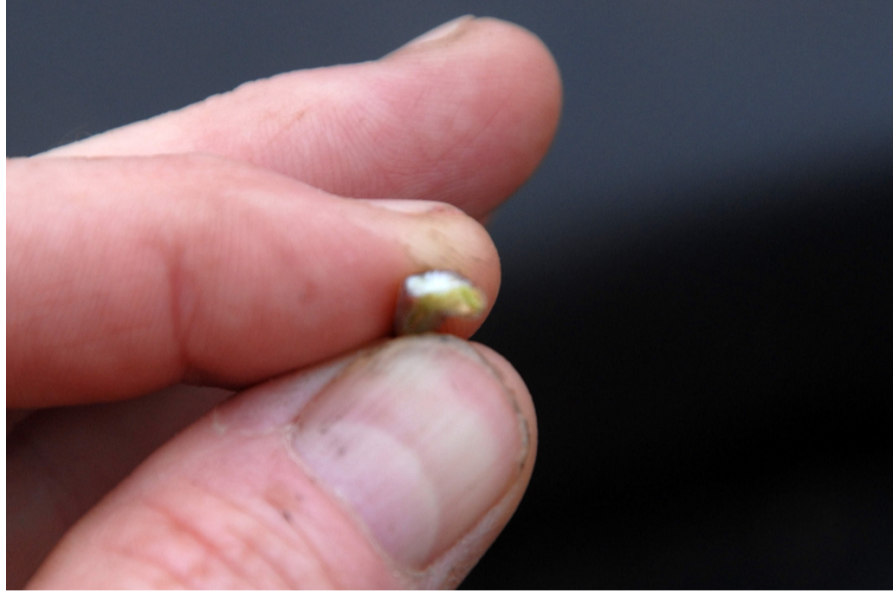


Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri' - full tree  
Jim Lawrence  
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Acer platanoides 'Crimson Sentry' Tree  
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Milky Sap  
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'Columnar' Form (Biltmore, NC)  
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'Crimson King' Form  
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Flowers  
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'Globosum' Form  
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'Crimson Sentry' Form  
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**Attributes:****Genus:**

Acer

**Species:**

platanoides

**Family:**

Sapindaceae

**Life Cycle:**

Woody

**Recommended Propagation Strategy:**

Seed

**Country Or Region Of Origin:**

Northeastern Europe

**Wildlife Value:**

Members of the genus Acer support Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*) larvae which have one brood per season and appear from April-October in the south. Adult Imperial Moths do not feed.

**Play Value:**

Attracts Pollinators  
 Pieces Used in Games  
 Shade  
 Wildlife Food Source

**Dimensions:**

Height: 40 ft. 0 in. - 50 ft. 0 in.  
 Width: 30 ft. 0 in. - 50 ft. 0 in.

**Whole Plant Traits:****Plant Type:**

Tree

**Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics:**

Deciduous

**Habit/Form:**

Rounded

**Growth Rate:**

Medium

**Maintenance:**

Low

**Texture:**

Coarse

**Cultural Conditions:****Light:**

Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)

Partial Shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)

**Soil Texture:**

Clay

Loam (Silt)

Shallow Rocky

**Soil Drainage:**

Good Drainage

Moist

Occasionally Dry

**USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:**

3a, 3b, 4b, 4a, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7b, 7a

**Fruit:****Fruit Color:**

Brown/Copper

**Display/Harvest Time:**

Fall

**Fruit Type:**

Samara

**Fruit Length:**

1-3 inches

**Fruit Description:**

1.5"-2" long horizontally spreading wings mature September to October.

**Flowers:****Flower Color:**

Gold/Yellow

Green

Insignificant

**Flower Inflorescence:**

Corymb

Insignificant

**Flower Bloom Time:**

Spring

**Flower Description:**

Not remarkable, appear in spring before the foliage. One of most

**Leaves:****Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics:**

Deciduous

**Leaf Color:**

Green

**Deciduous Leaf Fall Color:**

Gold/Yellow

**Leaf Type:**

Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:**

Opposite

**Leaf Margin:**

Lobed

**Hairs Present:**

Yes

**Leaf Length:**

&gt; 6 inches

**Leaf Width:**

3-6 inches

**Leaf Description:**

7" across, with 5 sharply pointed lobes that look similar to a sugar maple. Petioles exude milky sap when broken. Fall color is an unremarkable yellow.

**Bark:****Bark Color:**

Black

Light Gray

**Surface/Attachment:**

Ridges

**Stem:****Stem Is Aromatic:**

No



floriferous maples.

Landscape:

**Landscape Location:**

Recreational Play Area

Woodland

**Landscape Theme:**

Butterfly Garden

Children's Garden

Nighttime Garden

Pollinator Garden

**Design Feature:**

Shade Tree

Street Tree

**Attracts:**

Butterflies

Moths

Pollinators

Songbirds

**Resistance To Challenges:**

Drought

Heat

Pollution

**Problems:**

Messy

Weedy