



Norway Maple

BVGC INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) is a fast-growing tree which was introduced from Europe in the 1950's as a replacement for the trees dying of Dutch Elm disease. It quickly became America's most popular choice as a street tree. Over time, however, this species showed its undesirable qualities. Able to tolerate poor soil conditions and producing more seed than the native Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), the Norway maple – which does not provide the benefits of syrup and wood durability – reduces native biodiversity and increases the risk of soil erosion. It is now listed as invasive in many parts of the United States and is banned in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Description: A deciduous tree that can grow up to 40-60' high. Leaves are dark green, four to seven inches wide with five lobes. Leaves are in pairs opposite each other and turn pale yellow in the fall. The Norway maple can be distinguished from other maple species by the milky white fluid that oozes when the stem of a leaf is broken. The bark is grayish-brown, with regular grooves or furrows.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Norway Maple

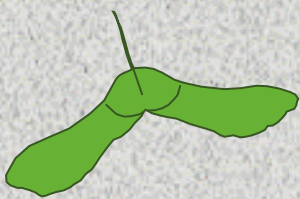


Leaves turn **YELLOW**

Sugar Maple



Leaves turn **RED**



samara **HORIZONTAL** spread

LIFESPAN 50 years



samara **VERTICAL** droop

LIFESPAN 400 years

Ecological Threat:

Rapid growth and prolific spread of seed chokes out natives. Root system invades sidewalks and lawns, prohibits anything else from growing underneath.

Caution:

Even though this plant is banned in Massachusetts, beware when purchasing from nurseries. Double check to be sure that any maple you plant on your property is not a Norway maple.

Extermination:

Young plants can be pulled from moist soil before they get too large. Other types of manual removal include digging out saplings and root systems. Stumps can be painted with herbicides such as Garlon to stop growth.