Acer platanoides
Norway maple

Acer platanoides (Norway maple) grows naturally in central and eastern Europe and in western Asia, often together with *Quercus robur* and *Tilia cordata*. It is a large, fast-growing tree that can reach a height of twenty to thirty meters and a width of fifteen to twenty meters. When young, the crown is ovate, later developing into a broad, densely branched and rounded crown.

In early spring, before the leaves appear, yellow upright flower clusters emerge and attract many insects. The leaves of the Norway maple are palmately lobed with five to seven clearly defined lobes. The upper surface is bright green and the underside is lighter. In autumn, the foliage turns a striking yellow to orange, adding ornamental value. When the leaf stalk is broken, milky sap is released, which makes the species easy to distinguish from *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The buds are reddish violet rather than green. The fruits are the typical winged maple samaras, with the wings set at nearly a right angle. The bark is dark gray, smooth at first and later irregularly furrowed. The twigs are light brown and smooth with prominent opposite buds.

Acer platanoides is one of the most widely planted trees in Europe and America because of its versatility and ability to thrive in many growing sites and urban conditions. It is highly tolerant of air pollution, drought, wind and urban stress. The tree has few soil requirements and grows on almost all well drained soils, including light clay, loam and sand, provided that sufficient moisture is present. As a climax species, young trees grow strongly even in shaded environments, although a position in full sun to partial shade is ideal for mature specimens. *Acer platanoides* is prone to surface rooting, which can be challenging in urban areas.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, trees for climbing, shade trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone, windbreak | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, Eco planting, Landscape planting, shade-tolerant, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 20 - 30 m | **Width**: 15 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade, shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, striking | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, opposite, dentate | **Autumn colour**: golden yellow | **Fruits**: striking, winged | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: grey-black | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: pale brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, shallow, fine roots, central root

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