PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer pseudoplanatus L.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Plane-tree maple, Sycamore maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Sap, Seeds, Leaves - flavour, Flowers - tea

Wine is made from the sap of this tree. The sap contains sugar and can be used as a sweetener or concentrated into a syrup by boiling.
The keys of the developing seeds have a sweet exudate sucked by children.
The leaves are wrapped around food to impart flavour.
The leaf buds have been eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows to 35-60 m high and spreads to 10-24 m or more across. The stem is straight, erect and covered with scaly bark. The crown of the tree has an irregular shape. The leaves are dark glossy green. They are deeply divided like the fingers on a hand. The edges of the leaves are like teeth on a saw. The leaves are 15 cm long and on long leaf stalks. The flowers are yellowish-green. They are on long stalks with many flowers in a cluster. These flower cluster hang downwards and are 12 cm long. The seeds are in pairs and the wings spread out sideways but the tips are curved back in. The wings are green or sometimes red.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. A plant native to Europe. It prefers deep fertile soil. It needs to be well drained soil and the plant does best in an open sunny position. It is frost resistant but damaged by drought. It can tolerate salty winds and grow near the coast. It has become naturalised in Tasmania. It suits hardiness zones 4-8. Kyneton Botanical Gardens. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from ripened seed. Seed should be pre-soaked for 24 hours then kept cold at 0-8°C for 2-4 months to assist them to grown. Seed can be sown fresh if green seeds are used. Layering or cuttings can be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree. Trees can take 25 years to come into bearing from seed. They make good windbreaks in seaside areas. Trees can live for 200 years.

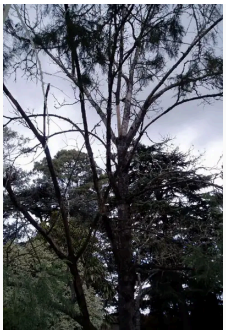
NOTES

There are about 120-150 Acer species. This one can become invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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