PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer negundo L.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Box elder, Black Maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark, Sap, Seeds

The sugary sap can be eaten. It is normally collected on a sunny day following a freezing night.
Self sown seedling shoots are eaten.
The seed are boiled and eaten after the wings have been removed.
The inner bark or cambium is an emergency food.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 20 m high and spreads to 5 m across. The trunk is 75 cm across. The stem is short and well branched. The leaves divide like the fingers on a hand. They have 3-5 leaflets with deep indents. Often the central leaflet is itself divided into three. The leaves can be 20 cm long. The leaves are light green and turn yellow in autumn. The flowers are greenish yellow. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. The flowers are on branched stalks which hang downwards. The seeds are in double seed containers with wings set back at an angle. The seed containers do not break open.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. A plant native to north America. It prefers well drained alkaline soils. It does best in a protected sunny position. It is frost resistant but damaged by drought. It often grows on lake shores and stream banks. It can stand occasional flooding. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. At Anvers Chocolate factory. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from ripened seed. It can also be grown by grafting. Both male and female trees must be grown if seed are required.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree. Trees live for 60 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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