PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer campestre L.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Field Maple, Hedge maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark, Sap, Fruit

The powdered inner bark of this tree has been used to make bread.
The sap is eaten fresh or frozen by children.
The immature fruit are sucked as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows up to 20 m high and spreads 4 m across. The stem is tall and slender. It is twisted an covered with light grey scaly bark. The tree has a rounded crown. The leaves are dark green and divided like the fingers on a hand. There are 3-5 blunt lobes on the leaf. The leaf stalk is long. The leaves turn yellow in autumn. The flowers are yellowish green. They are in downy heads of 10-20. They are on short leafy branches. The seeds have a pair of wings which spread out to the side. The wings of the fruit turn red as they ripen.

HABITAT

It is a cool temperate plant. A plant native to the northern hemisphere. It prefers well drained alkaline soils. It requires an open sunny position. It can withstand frost but is damaged by drought. Temperate. It suits hardiness zones 3-8. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown by seed. The seedlings should stay in a nursery for 2 years before transplanting.

NOTES

There are about 120-150 Acer species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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