PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer saccharinum L.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Silver maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Sap, Bark

The sap of the tree is used as a source of sugar.
The inner bark can be cooked, dried, ground into flour then used to thicken soups.
The leaves of self sown seedlings can be eaten fresh.
The seeds with the wings removed can be boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree 30 m high and 15 m across. The trunk is 100 cm across. In open locations it forms branches low down to produce several trunks. It has a broad crown. The leaves are 15-20 cm long and have 5-7 lobes. They are widest at the base. They have coarse, sharp, irregular teeth. The central lobe narrows towards the centre of the leaf. The upper surface is light green and underneath it is silvery white. Leaves turn pale yellow or brown in autumn. The flowers are small and greenish-yellow. They are on short stalks. They appear before the leaves. The fruit have wings. These are 40-70 mm long and spread widely. The seedcase is ribbed. Often only one of the two seeds develop.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to E North America. It does best in moist well drained soils. They can tolerate some flooding. It cannot tolerate much shade. It suits hardiness zones 4-8. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

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. Stem cuttings shoot easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are fast growing but only last 125 to 140 years.

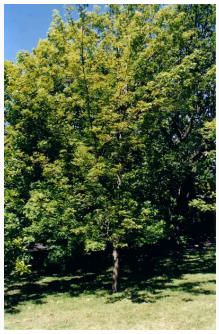
NOTES

There are about 120-150 Acer species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Beckstrom-Sternberg, Stephen M., and James A. Duke. "The Foodplant Database." http://probe.nalusda.gov:8300/cgi-bin/browse/foodplantdb. (ACEDB version 4.0 - data version July 1994)

Bircher, A. G. & Bircher, W. H., 2000, Encyclopedia of Fruit Trees and Edible Flowering Plants in Egypt and the Subtropics. AUC Press. p 6

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 43

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 68

Brouk, B., 1975, Plants Consumed by Man. Academic Press, London. p 249

Coombes, A.J., 2000, Trees. Dorling Kindersley Handbooks. p 101

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 89

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 70

Farrar, J.L., 1995, Trees of the Northern United States and Canada. Iowa State University press/Ames p 142

Harris, E & J., 1983, Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Britain. Reader's Digest. p 133

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 21 (Also as Acer dasycarpum)

Joyce, D., 1998, The Garden Plant Selector. Ryland, Peters and Small. p 106

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2018, Food Plants in the Americas: A Survey of the Domesticated, Cultivated and Wild Plants Used for Human Food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. p 14

Little, E.L., 1980, National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees. Alfred A. Knopf. p 578

Lyle, S., 2006, Discovering fruit and nuts. Land Links. p 46

MacKinnon, A., et al, 2009, Edible & Medicinal Plants of Canada. Lone Pine. p 66

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/

Sp. pl. 2:1055. 1753

Toupal, R. S. & Hollenback, K., 2009, An Ethnobotany of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: Plant Uses of the Ojibwa People. Bureau of Applied research in Anthropology. University of Arizona

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Young, J., (Ed.), 2001, Botanica's Pocket Trees and Shrubs. Random House. p 64

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d8eda779-813a-47ef-ac35-e3daae9cccd0