PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer nigrum F. Michx.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Black sugar maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Sap, Seeds, Bark

The sap of the tree is used as a source of sugar. It produces Maple syrup.
The inner bark can be cooked, dried, ground into flour then used to thicken soups.
The seeds with the wings removed can be boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 35 m tall. The leaves have lobes like fingers on a hand and opposite. They are 10-14 cm long. There are 3-5 lobes. The leaf is yellow-green underneath and has soft hairs.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. Naturally found in the USA and Canada, in valleys usually below 750 metres but up to 1650 metres in the south of its range. It can tolerate a range of soils. When trees are dormant they can withstand temperatures to -45°C. They are most commonly on broad flat flood plains. It suits hardiness zones 4-8.

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.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow rapidly for their first 25 years in the wild, but then slow down and only occasionally live for more than 200 years

NOTES

There are about 120-150 Acer species.

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