

SUGAR MAPLE

Acer saccharum Marsh.

Sugar, rock, or hard maple is found abundantly throughout the state on moist, rocky slopes, but grows best on moist, upland soils. In the forest it grows to 60-70 feet and to a diameter of 20-30 inches. The top is short and spreading. In the open, the branches begin 8-10 feet up, forming an egg-shaped head when the tree is young and a broad rounded top when older. It makes an attractive street or ornamental tree, but it is sensitive to road salt. Globe and columnar shapes are available at nurseries. Maple sugar and syrup are made largely from the sap of this tree, although sugar is present in the sap of all maples. **Bark** on young trees and large branches is smooth or slightly fissured and pale. Older trees are deeply furrowed and light to darker gray. **Leaves** are opposite, 3-5 lobed,



sparingly toothed, 3-5 inches long, dark green above, pale green below. Sides of the terminal lobe are parallel or divergent and notches between lobes are rounded. In autumn, leaves turn various shades of red, scarlet, orange or yellow. **Flowers** are pendulous, on long, slender, hairy

stalks, in clusters, greenish yellow, and appear with the leaves. **Fruit** is paired, baseball-shaped with wings about one inch long, slightly divergent. It ripens in the fall.

Wood is heavy, close-grained, strong, and hard. It is used for furniture, flooring, tool handles, veneer, railroad ties, novelties, dowels, woodenware, canoe paddles and pulp. "Birds-eye" and curly patterned wood is in high demand in the furniture industry.

BLACK MAPLE

Acer nigrum Michx. f.

Black Maple is found in southern Maine, leaves are similar to sugar maple, but three-lobed and pubescent.