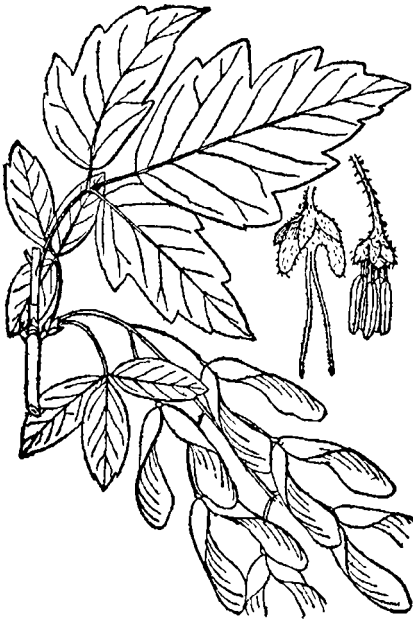




BOXELDER *Acer negundo* L.



Boxelder, or ashleaf maple, is apparently not native to Maine, but has been planted as an ornamental tree throughout the state and has escaped in localized areas near habitation. It was introduced along the St. John River in Aroostook County. It reaches a maximum height of 50 feet and diameter of about 2 feet in Maine. It is a short-lived, fast-growing, brittle tree, prone to wind and ice damage. It can become invasive.

Boxelder is a short-lived, fast-growing, brittle tree, prone to wind and ice damage. It can become invasive.





Boxelder twigs are purple and covered with a whitish waxy bloom.

The **bark** is light gray and smooth on young stems, becoming roughened and shallow-fissured on older trees.

The **leaves** are opposite, compound, usually 3–7 leaflets per leaf, rarely nine. The leaflets vary greatly in shape, often lobed and unlobed leaflets are found on the same leaf. Leaflets are occasionally divided into individual blades.

The **flowers** open just before the leaves in the spring and are yellow-green. They have no petals.

The **fruit** attains mature size in summer, ripening in autumn. It consists of a double-winged pair of seeds. Wings are only slightly divergent; and the seed body is wrinkled, three times longer than broad.

The **twigs** are smooth, rather stout, green or maroon, and covered with a white, chalky bloom. The bark yields a pungent odor when bruised.

The **wood** is light, soft, creamy white, often tinged with green, weak and close-grained. Occasionally it is used for pulp.



MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

Boxelder

Circumference: 115"

Height: 85'

Crown Spread: 66'

Location: Wilton

