



## SILVER MAPLE *Acer saccharinum* L.



*In Maine, silver maple is most common along major rivers.*

**A**bundant in some localities, silver maple is a common tree, found throughout the state except along the coast. It grows largely on sandy banks along streams, usually attaining a height of 60–80 feet and a diameter of 2–3 feet. The trunk normally separates into 3 or 4 upright secondary stems, devoid of branches for some distance. The branches are long and slender, often pendulous.

The **bark** on young trees is smooth, gray, slightly tinged with red. On old trees, it is reddish-brown, furrowed, and separated into large thin scales that are loose at the bottom. Twigs are chestnut brown and shiny.

The **leaves** are opposite, deeply five-lobed; and the edges are irregular and sharply toothed. The upper surface is pale green, the lower, silvery white. They turn a pale yellow in fall.





The **flowers** are on very short stalks and in clusters. They are greenish-yellow or sometimes pinkish, opening early, long before the leaves appear.

The **fruit** is paired, winged and ripens in spring. Frequently, one of the pair does not fully develop. The **twigs** are curved upward at the tip, orange or red-brown above and green below, slender, with a bitter taste and a rank odor when broken.

The **wood** is softer than that of the hard maple, close-grained, not durable and easily worked. It is used to a limited extent for pulp.



*Silver maple has large globe-shaped flower buds and smaller vegetative buds.*

MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008  
Silver Maple Circumference: 316" Height: 89'  
Crown Spread: 75' Location: Leeds

