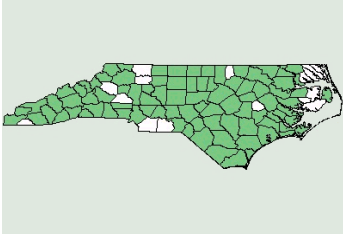


RED MAPLE

Acer rubrum

One the first trees to show its colors. Also known as Swamp Maple and Carolina Red Maple.



Description: A small to large, deciduous tree with a narrow or rounded compact crown. Its summer foliage is gray-green with frosty underside leaves. Autumn leaves offer the Red Maple distinction with colors varying from greenish yellow to vibrant scarlet or burgundy.

Natural Habitat: Native to the eastern half of the United States and adjoining southern Canada. In NC, commonly found along creeks and bottomlands where soil is constantly moist.

Size: 40 to 70' tall and wide

Growth Rate: Rapid

Light: Full sun to part shade

Planting and Care: Red Maple strongly prefers deep, moist to wet, acidic, rich soils giving it the alternative common name Swamp Maple. It easily transplants and is said to be one of the easiest trees to grow.

Ornamental Value: Vibrant fall foliage and attractive dark gray, plated bark. It is one of the first trees to show fall color.

Landscape Usage: Red maple is excellent when grown as a shade tree or a specimen tree.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Used in the furniture and pulp industries. Pioneers once made ink and cinnamon-brown and black dyes from an extract of the bark.

Wildlife Benefits: Whitetail deer relish young red maple trees and leaves. Squirrels and birds eat its seeds while bees and butterflies such as tiger swallowtails and mourning cloaks visit the flowers. Many birds nest in the Red Maple but they are the favorite of blackbirds.