



# Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) 1+0

## Type

Deciduous tree

## Size and Shape

Can reach a **height of 30 m and a diameter of 50 -120 cm**. The extent of the crown can reach 24 m in diameter and more since the species tends to have several trunks, which can extend widely. **The tree should be planted at a minimum distance of 14.5 m from utility wires.**

Has a longevity of 130 years. Grows quickly. In the forest, the trunk is high with ascending branches, large open crown. In an open environment, the trunk is short, divided into several trunks. The crown is wide, rounded at the top. The large branches grow away from the main trunk. **The roots can extend very aggressively. They can also block sewer pipes.**

## Edible Species?

Yes, the sap can be consumed, but it is less sweet than the sugar maple sap.

## Distribution and Habitat

Found in the forests of southern, central and eastern Ontario. The species prefers rich soils, humid lowlands bordering streams, swamps and lakes. Less shade tolerant than red maple.

## Wildlife

Trunks of silver maple are often hollow, providing dens for squirrels, raccoons, and other mammals, and nesting space for wood ducks and other birds. Birds and small mammals feed on seeds.



*Silver Maple*

## Light Exposure

Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily), Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

## Soil Preference

Very variable, from sand to clayey loam.

## Drought Conditions

Tolerant

## Poor Drainage

Very tolerant

## Salt Tolerance

Low tolerance

## Disease, Pests and Problems

Susceptible to leaf scorch, verticillium wilt, tar spot and anthracnose. Pests include borers cottony maple scale.

## Rural Uses

Reforestation and plantations for timber, grows fast.

## Urban Uses

Not recommended along roadsides since the silver maple produces a lot of seeds every year, the branches are fragile and brittle, can be visually attractive in the fall and the root system is very aggressive.