



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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Sugar Maple

(Acer saccharum) 2+0



Sugar Maple

Type

Deciduous tree

Size and Shape

Similar to black maple, sugar maple can grow up to **35 m high and 1.5 m in diameter**. **Crown spread can reach 15 m in diameter**. **Should be planted at a minimum distance of 13.5 m from utility wires**.

Longevity of 200 years. Trunk straight, often branch-free for 2/3 of its height. Crown narrow, round-topped, with short sturdy branches. Root system is deep and wide-spreading. Leaves turn yellow to bright orange in the fall.

Edible Specie?

Yes, the sap is edible in spring..

Distribution and Habitat

Sugar maple present in south, central, and eastern Ontario. Grows best on deep, fertile, moist, well-drained soils, also does well in deep soils on the Canadian Shield. Tolerates heavy shade and grazing for many years and then grows normally when released by an opening in the canopy. Decomposing leaves tend to enrich the soil by reducing the acidity and increasing the mineral content.

Wildlife

Birds and small mammals feed on seeds.

Other Notes

The sugar maple and black maple often hybridize.

Light Exposure

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

Soil Preference

From sand to clayey loam.

Drought Conditions

Moderately tolerant

Poor Drainage

Intolerant

Salt Tolerance

Intolerant

Disease, Pests and Problems

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

Rural Uses

Site recovery (due to roots), orchards, source of food for wildlife. Grows well with hemlock, white pine, and other hardwoods.

Urban Uses

Aesthetic characteristics, intolerant to pollution.