

# Silver Maple

*Acer saccharinum*



Silver maple, one of the most popular ornamental trees, is native to Aitkin County. Silver maple has 4"-6" leaves with a distinctively silvery-green underside, lending this tree its name. Silver maples produce 1"-2" seeds called samaras. Samaras are eaten by songbirds, squirrels, wild turkeys, and other game birds. Seedlings and young branches are browsed by rabbits and deer. It is possible to tap silver maple for syrup, but silver maples have a lower concentration of sugar in their sap and require more processing than sugar maples. The wood of silver maples is fairly hard but brittle, occasionally used for flooring, furniture, and fuel.



**Height:** 40' to 75'--exceptional trees may grow >100'

Under favorable conditions, silver maple is fast-growing, and may grow more than 2' per year until reaching maturity.



## **Planting environment:**

*Soil composition:* Loamy, clay loam, clayey

*Soil moisture:* Moist to somewhat-drained, not dry

*Sunlight:* Shade intolerant (>4 hours of sun/day)

Silver maple seedlings should be spaced 10' – 15' apart.

## **Maintenance:**

Young silver maples may be killed if planted under overtopping vegetation that shades the planting site. Clear any thick brush or vegetation that grows taller than the saplings. Silver maple is vulnerable to cracking in the winter due to ice formation. Monitor trees for any cracks or splits, and consider pruning forked branches.

## **Top diseases/pests:**

1. Verticillium wilt
2. Ice/wind damage

