

# Silver Maple

*Acer saccharinum*

Silver maple is a popular ornamental tree with distinct gray bark and forked leaves. Its seeds, called samaras, are eaten by songbirds, squirrels, wild turkeys, and other game birds (and sometimes, people). Seedlings and young branches are browsed by rabbits and deer. You can tap silver maples for syrup, but their sap has less sugar than sugar maples and needs to be boiled for longer. Silver maple wood is brittle and occasionally used for flooring, furniture, and fuel.

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

Silver maples can grow up to 2' per year in the right conditions.



## Planting environment:

*Soil composition:* Loam, clay loam, or clayey soil

*Soil moisture:* Like moist to well-drained soils, including floodplains.

*Sunlight:* Full sun to partial shade.

Silver maples are susceptible to rot or storm damage, can propagate vigorously, and have root systems that can invade sidewalks and septic systems—these trees aren't recommended near buildings.

## Maintenance:

Prune young trees to make sure they grow straight and monitor for cracks or splits.

## Top diseases/pests:

1. Verticillium wilt
2. Ice/wind damage

