

# Box Elder

*Acer negundo*

Boxelder is a short-lived but fast-growing native. The common name of boxelder comes from its former use in wooden box and crate manufacturing. Boxelder is in the maple genus, but its leaves come in clusters of 3-5. Boxelder is hardy, prolific, and excellent for challenging erosion sites, but it's also fragile, messy, suckers aggressively, and might not be recommended in sites where other trees will grow.

**Height:** 30'-50'

Boxelder is extremely fast-growing, growing two ft. when young.

**Planting environment:**

*Soil composition:* Sandy loams to clay

*Moisture:* Dry to wet soils.

*Sunlight:* Full sun to partial shade (>6 hours of sun/day)

**Maintenance:**

Boxelder is usually only planted for tough erosion control sites, so maintenance is minimal. Remove encroaching vegetation that may outcompete saplings. As boxelder is prone to dropping branches, consider selective pruning to minimize broken or damaged limbs. Boxelder is a prolific seed-producing tree, and undesirable seedlings may need to be controlled by mowing.

**Top diseases/pests:**

1. Brittle woodwind and ice damage
2. Boxelder bugs
3. Salt sensitivity

