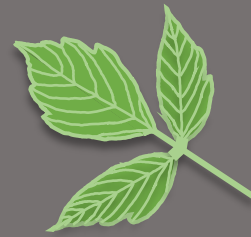


Boxelder

Acer negundo



Boxelder, ~~aka Kyle's mortal enemy~~, is a short-lived but fast-growing ~~fugly~~ tree native to Aitkin County. The common name of boxelder is derived from its former commercial usage in the manufacture of wooden boxes and crates. Despite being a member of the maple family, boxelder has compound leaves, with 3 to 5 pairs of leaves 5"-8" in length. 1"-1.5" seeds are samaras, much as on other maples. Boxelder is a hardy, prolific tree that is excellent for challenging sites, but does tend to be fragile and prone to dropping branches and limbs. Boxelder wood is soft and tends to decay quickly, as it is sensitive to heat and moisture.

Height: 30'-50'

Boxelder is a fast-growing tree, especially when young. Boxelder shoots can grow over two feet in height per year. ~~It will take over the world!~~

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Sandy loams to clay

Soil moisture: Dry to wet; most conditions

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

Although most boxelder is from natural regeneration, if planted as a landscape tree, boxelder will tend to grow as wide as it does tall; consider spacing of at least 20-30 ft between trees.

Maintenance:

Boxelder is usually only planted for tough erosion control sites and therefore 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 wood – wind and ice damage
2. Boxelder bugs
3. Salt sensitivity

