Acer triflorum
Three-Flowered Maple

INTRODUCTION

Three-Flowered Maple slowly grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet with an equal width, the dense, rounded canopy casting dense shade below (Fig. 1). The 1.5 to 3.5-inch-long, compound leaves are slightly hairy and turn attractive shades of orange and red in the fall before dropping. True to its name, Three-Flowered Maple produces three, greenish-yellow flowers clustered together in springtime and these are followed by 1 to 1.5-inch-long winged seeds which persist on the tree. The red/brown bark is quite attractive and peels off in long, thin strips.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Acer triflorum
Pronunciation: AY-ser try-FLOR-um
Common name(s): Three-Flowered Maple
Family: Aceraceae
USDA hardiness zones: 3B through 7 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); near a deck or patio; screen; trainable as a standard; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree
Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 25 feet
Spread: 15 to 25 feet

Figure 1. Young Three-Flowered Maple.

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-57, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: round; spreading
Crown density: dense
Growth rate: slow
Texture: fine

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: odd pinnately compound; trifoliate
Leaflet margin: entire
Leaflet shape: lanceolate; oblong
Leaflet venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: orange; red; yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower
Flower color: green; yellow
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: green; tan
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

Current year twig color: brown
Current year twig thickness: medium; thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained
Drought tolerance: moderate
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

This handsome tree is well suited for use as a specimen planted in the lawn or in a low ground cover. The showy bark and fine texture combine to generate a striking display during the growing season. It provides interest in the winter when branches are bare to show the darkened bark which contrasts nicely against snow.

Three-Flowered Maple grows best in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soil. Due to its shallow root system, Three-Flowered Maple will not tolerate soil compaction. It does not tolerate soil which remains wet for periods of time.