

## ***Acer platanoides* ‘Summershade’ ‘Summershade’ Norway Maple<sup>1</sup>**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

‘Summershade’ Norway Maple in cultivation has a height of 40 to 50 feet but can grow taller (Fig. 1). The oval crown maintains a central leader and fills with greenish-yellow flowers in the spring. ‘Summershade’ Norway Maple’s dense shade and shallow root system compete with lawn grasses, and the shallow roots can make mowing under the tree difficult. Locate it in a bed with shrubs and groundcovers so the shallow roots will not cause a problem with mowing.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** *Acer platanoides* ‘Summershade’

**Pronunciation:** AY-ser plat-uh-NOY-deez

**Common name(s):** ‘Summershade’ Norway Maple

**Family:** *Aceraceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 7A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; shade tree; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

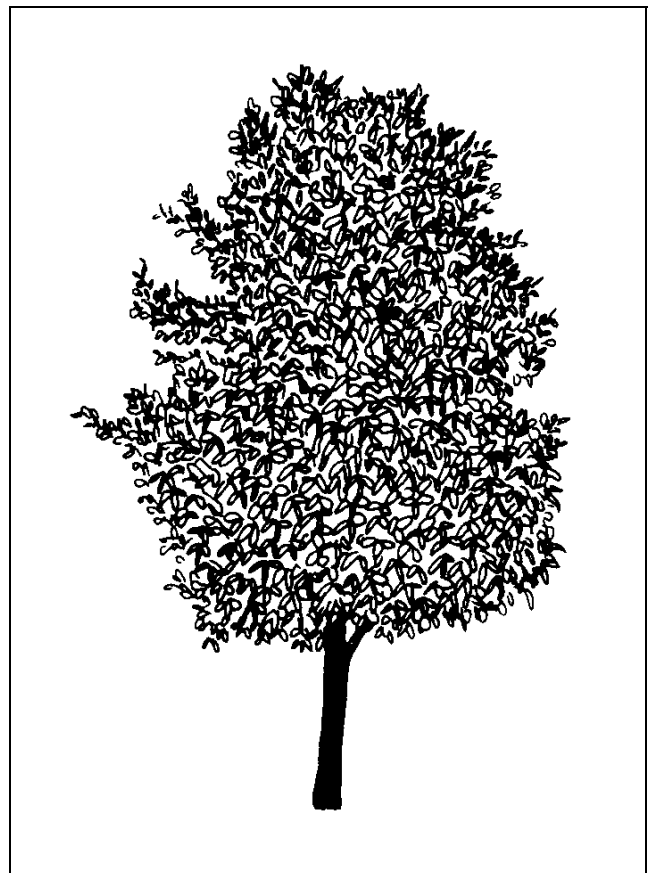


Figure 1. Middle-aged ‘Summershade’ Norway Maple.

### **DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 40 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Crown shape:** oval  
**Crown density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** lobed; dentate; incised  
**Leaf shape:** star-shaped  
**Leaf venation:** palmate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** yellow  
**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** green  
**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:** brown; green  
**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; no significant litter problem; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure  
**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** brown  
**Current year twig thickness:** thick

### Culture

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

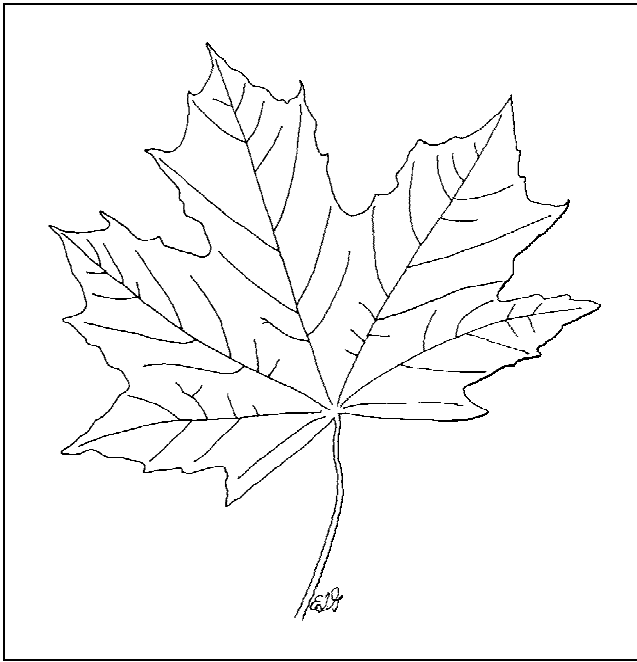


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Summershade' Norway Maple.

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** good

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** No entries found.

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

The tree is easily transplanted, grows more quickly than the species, is adapted to a wide variety of soils and has brilliant yellow fall color. It can also tolerate coastal conditions and is adapted to street tree plantings. It is tolerant of urban conditions, including alkaline soil, drought and pollution. Norway Maple can naturalize if located near open areas and roots can heave sidewalks, so locate it at least four to six feet away.

'Summershade' is probably the most heat tolerant of the Norway Maples and ranked very high in shade tree trials in Ohio. Since it leafs out late in the spring it can be transplanted later than other cultivars. Seedlings germinate readily in the landscape and could

become a weed problem in ground cover and shrubbery beds. Four or five types of birds are known to use seeds as a food source, so it might be best to locate the tree away from a park bench so bird droppings will not soil the bench. Trunks can crack on the southern or western sides during the winter.

A large number of other cultivars are available. Those having colored summer foliage are: 'Crimson King' - oval, 45 feet tall, foliage purple during the summer; 'Drummondii' - leaves edged in white; 'Schwedleri' - oval, 45 feet tall, foliage reddish in the spring then becoming green. Other cultivars are: 'Almira' - round headed, mature height of about 20 feet; 'Cleveland' - upright growth habit, 50 feet tall; 'Columnare' - columnar or upright growth habit, 35 feet tall; 'Deborah' - new leaves appear as a deep red; 'Emerald Queen' - crown oval, growth rate faster, 60 feet tall; 'Erectum' - upright growth habit; 'Globosum' - rounded head, 20 feet tall; 'Greenlace' - cutleaf cultivar with rapid growth rate; 'Olmstead' - upright growth habit, 45 feet tall; 'Superform' - round, 45 feet tall, may show more resistance to frost cracks.

### Pests

Aphids infest maples, usually norway maple, and may be numerous at times. High populations can cause leaf drop. Another sign of heavy aphid infestation is honey dew on lower leaves and objects beneath the tree. Aphids are controlled by spraying or they may be left alone. If not sprayed, predatory insects will usually bring the aphid population under control.

Scales are an occasional problem on maples. Perhaps the most common is cottony maple scale. The insect forms a cottony mass on the lower sides of branches. Scales are usually controlled with horticultural oil sprays. Scales may also be controlled with well-timed sprays to kill the crawlers.

If borers become a problem it is an indication the tree is not growing well. Controlling borers involves keeping trees healthy. Chemical controls of existing infestations are more difficult. Proper control involves identification of the borer infesting the tree then applying insecticides at the proper time.

## **Diseases**

It is susceptible to Ganoderma rot.

'Summershade' is susceptible to Verticillium wilt. Symptoms are wilting and death of branches. Infected sapwood will be stained a dark or olive green but staining can't always be found. If staining can not be found do not assume the problem is not verticillium wilt. Severely infected trees probably can't be saved. Lightly infected trees showing only a few wilted branches may be pulled through. Fertilize and prune lightly infected trees. This treatment will not cure the problem but may allow the tree to outgrow the infection. Girdling roots will cause symptoms which mimic verticillium wilt.