

# NORWAY MAPLE

(ACER PLANTANOIDES)

## 2019 Status in Maine:

Widespread. Very invasive. Large canopy height tree. Originates in Europe and Asia.

## Identify

**Leaves:** Opposite, 5-lobed with pointed tips but otherwise entire. Breaking leaf stem (petiole) produces a white sap (distinguishes this species from native maples). Typically green but some varieties are purple-red.

**Fruit:** Has a typical winged maple "helicopter" fruit with a very wide angle.

**Bark:** Dark gray, deeply furrowed not shaggy like native maples.

## Location

This plant is extremely shade tolerant and can compete under a closed canopy. Can be found in forests, forest edges, and fields. Often planted along urban streets.

**Parks of concern:** Hinckley Park, Greenbelt, Yerxa Park, Clark's Pond, Trout Brook Nature Preserve, Fisherman's Point, South Branch Trail, Thomas Knight Park.

## Problem

Norway maples can grow in established forests, shading native vegetation. They are not eaten by native animals, causing increased herbivory on native tree species. They provide breeding habitat for the invasive Asian long-horned beetle, as well as host a variety of harmful fungal pests. Shallow roots compete with other plants and can damage infrastructure (pavement, sewer lines). It is highly susceptible to diseases and is not very durable, threatening buildings and houses.

**How it spreads:** Seeds are wind dispersed. May also be spread by small mammals or water.

## Management

Seedlings can be pulled when the soil is moist. Larger saplings or trees can be cut but this must be repeated, often for several years, as the plant can re-sprout.

