

Silver Maple *Acer saccharinum*



RECOGNITION: This is a large tree with a short trunk dividing into a number of limbs forming a broad crown. The larger branches arch out and dip down before turning upward again

Habitat

Silver Maples grow in the south eastern parts of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Forest region. They are less shade tolerant than the Red Maple and flourish on rich, moist bottom lands bordering streams, swamps, and lakeshores.



Leaves

The leaves have 5 narrow pointed lobes separated by deep notches. The overall size is from 15 to 20 cm and the leaf is widest above the base. Veins extend from a slender, red leafstalk to the pointed tip of each lobe. The edges of the leaf have very coarse sharp teeth. The surface is light green with a silver-white underside. In autumn the leaves turn pale yellow or brown

Size and Form

The fast growing Silver Maple may be up to 35 m high and 100 cm in diameter. The crown is round and broad held up by curving brittle branches. The trunk grows longer in the forest than in the open where it commonly divides near the ground into a few sharply upward branches. Often the trunk of this tree is covered with shoots and suckers.