PLANT FINDER

Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

Height: 70 feet

Spread: 50 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Soft Maple, White Maple

Description:

A most versatile and popular shade tree because it is so fast growing, eventually becoming very large, suitable only for larger home landscapes; interestingly shaped leaves whose silver undersides shimmer in the wind, a good choice for tough sites



Silver Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Silver Maple has attractive green foliage with silver undersides on a tree with a round habit of growth. The lobed leaves are highly ornamental and turn buttery yellow in fall. It features showy clusters of red flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. The furrowed silver bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Silver Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Silver Maple is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Silver Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade

PLANT FINDER

Planting & Growing

Silver Maple will grow to be about 70 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 50 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.



Silver Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder