

SYCAMORE MAPLE

Acer pseudoplatanus L.

Description: *Acer pseudoplatanus* is a tall tree that can reach 30m (100ft.) in height. The bark of the tree has irregular scales, with bark often flaking off. The palmate leaves have a leathery texture unlike most maples and are dark green above and lighter green and pubescent on the major veins below. The leaves have 5 lobes with the 2 basal lobes being reduced compared to the 3 lobes in the middle. The leaf margins are coarsely toothed, but do not have sharp tips. They are 7.5-15cm (3-6in.) wide and are cordate at their base.



The yellowish-green flowers appear in May and are in pendulous racemes 6-15cm (2-6in.) long. The flowers themselves are small, measuring 4-5mm (0.2in) across. The fruits measure 3-4cm (1-1.5in.) long, and have broad samaras (wings) that are at angles of 60-90 degrees from each other.



HABITAT: Sycamore Maple can exist in abandoned fields, early successional forest edge, open disturbed areas, pastures, roadsides, vacant lots, yards and/or gardens. *Acer pseudoplatanus* is salt tolerant and shade intolerant; it does well in exposed, coastal habitats. It is well adapted to soil extremes and is tolerant of pollution.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acer pseudoplatanus* is native to Europe and western Asia. In the U.S. it is found from Maine to Michigan and south from Kentucky to North Carolina. In



New England it is most numerous along the coast, particularly on Cape Cod, coastal Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut. So far, it is an uncommon escapee to the inland.



THREATS: *Acer pseudoplatanus* is capable of producing large numbers of young, giving rise to dense stands trees with the potential for crowding out native tree species.

Reference: www.invasivespecies.gov, <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane>