

What Maple is That?

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Today

Look at how the keys are arranged and important features.

How to use the summer/leaf key

- Walk around the tree and note any variation in the leaves.
- Select a leaf or leaves that appear to be typical in shape, size and lobing.
- Several species may have 3-5 lobed leaves, *A. davidii* and *A. stachyophyllum* as examples.
- Note other features such as bark, buds, flowers or fruit if present.

Summer/Leaf Key, 14 categories.

Index to identification keys

- A. Species with compound leaves.
- B. Species with mainly 9 or more lobed leaves.
- C. Species with mainly 7-lobed leaves.
 - 1. Leaf margins with numerous saw teeth
 - 2. Leaf margins untoothed or with a few largish triangular teeth
- D. Species with mainly 5-lobed leaves.
 - 1. Leaf margins with largish pointed teeth or no teeth.
 - 2. Leaves with bluntish lobe tips and teeth.
 - 3. Large leaves - >12.5cm wide, with largish teeth on margins.
 - 4. Large leaves - >12.5cm wide, with many small teeth.
 - 5. Snakebark maples.
 - 6. Small to medium sized leaves with numerous small teeth.
Non-snakebark maples but with stalked buds.
 - 7. Small to medium sized leaves with numerous small teeth.
Maples having unstalked buds but with valvate scales.
- E. Species with mainly 3-lobed leaves.
 - 1. With untoothed leaf margins.
 - 2. With numerous small teeth on leaf margins, lobes on lower half of leaves.
 - 3. With numerous small teeth on leaf margins, lobes on outer half of leaves.
- F. Species with unlobed leaves.

A – Species with compound leaves (9).



Acer cissifolium, Vine leaf maple
Basal leaflets >3mm long



Acer griseum, Paperbark maple
Basal leaflets < 3mm long

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf margins
2. Hairs on back of leaf
3. Petiole length



Acer pentaphyllum

B – Species with mainly 9 or more lobes (6).



Acer japonicum, Full Moon maple
Leaves mostly > 9cm wide



Acer sieboldianum, Siebold's maple
Leaves mostly < 9cms wide

Other features to look for include:

1. Shoot colour in second year of growth
2. Leaf margins, whether coarse irregular V even saw teeth or none
3. How deeply divided are the leaves, tricky!



Acer pictum ssp.
okomotoanum



Acer
pseudosieboldianum

C1 – Species with mainly 7 lobes (11)
Leaf margins with numerous saw-teeth



Acer shirasawanum, Shirasawa's maple
Leaf, petiole and shoot hairless, once
leaves are fully developed (2)



Acer erianthum, Woolly flowered maple
Leaf with hairs, at least as tufts in the
vein-axils beneath (9)

Other features to look for include:

1. Colour of second year shoot
2. Hairiness in general
3. Lobes, how deeply cut?



Acer erianthum



Acer pubipalmatum

C2 – Species with mainly 7 lobes (4)

Untoothed or a few largish triangular teeth on the margins



Acer cappadocicum, Cappadocicum maple
Leaf underside green. Petiole with milky sap (3)



Acer saccharinum, Silver maple
Leaf underside blue grey. Petiole with watery sap (1)

Other features to look for include:

1. Colour of second year shoot
2. Number of or no teeth on the leaf margins



Acer pictum

D1 – Species with mainly 5-lobed leaves.
Leaf margins with largish triangular teeth or no teeth (9).



Acer platanoides, Norway maple
Petiole with milky sap (5)



Acer saccharum, Sugar maple
Petiole with watery sap (4)

Other features to look for include:

1. Colour of second year shoot
2. Number and shape of teeth/lobes
3. Leaf underside, hairiness and colour



Acer sieboldianum



Acer cissifolium

D2 - Species with mainly 5-lobed leaves.
Leaves with roundish lobe tips and teeth (8).



Acer opalus, Italian maple
Petiole with watery sap (5)



Acer campestre, Field maple
Petiole with milky sap (3)

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf size, \leq 4ins (10cms) long and wide.
2. Colour of leaf underside



Acer heldreichii



Acer saccharum ssp.
grandidentum

D3 – Species with mainly 5-lobed leaves.

Large leaves > 10cm. across, untoothed or with a few largish teeth on the margins.(5)



Acer macrophyllum, Oregon maple
Petioles with milky sap (3)



Acer saccharinum, Silver maple
Petioles with Watery sap (2)

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf lobes, blunt or sharp?
2. Colour of leaf underside
3. Leaf margins with, without teeth

D4 – Species with mainly 5-lobed leaves.
Large leaves – >10cm wide, numerous small teeth (7).



Acer sterculiaceum, Pungent maple
Leaf margins with irregular uneven sized teeth with tips bluntly pointed (4)



Acer tegmentosum, Coated maple
Leaf margins with very small even sharply-pointed teeth (3)

Other features to look for include:

1. Bark, three snakbarks
2. Bloom on current shoot
3. Petiole with milky or watery sap



Acer pensylvanicum



Acer rufinerve

D5 – Species with mainly 5 lobed leaves.
Snakebark maples all have stalked buds (10.)



Acer pensylvanicum, Moosewood
Large leaf > 10cms wide (2)



Acer micranthum, Small flowered maple
Small to medium sized leaf < 10cms wide
(8)

Other features to look for include:

1. Colour of current shoot
2. Leaf underside, hairs, bridges
3. Bark
4. Stalked buds

Acer morifolium



Acer tegmentosum



Acer capillipes



D6 – Small to medium sized leaves with numerous small teeth.
Non-snakebark maples but with stalked buds (7).



Acer barbinerve, Bearded maple
Hairs present, at least in the vein axils
on the leaf underside (6)



Acer glabrum, Rock maple
Leaf and shoot hairless. Leaf
underside grey-green (1)

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf underside, hair colour white V fawn
2. Texture of upper leaf surface
3. Stalked buds (non snakebark maples)



Acer caudatum



Acer acuminatum

D7 – Small to medium sized leaves with numerous small teeth
Species having unstalked buds and just a few bud scales (8)



Acer palmatum ssp. palmatum

Leaf hairless when fully developed (3)



Acer palmatum ssp. matsumurae



Acer pubipalmatum

Leaf with hairs, at least in the
vein axils on leaf underside(5)

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf size
2. Leaf top, colour
3. Lobes, depth of division (*A. palmatum*)



Acer pubipalmatum



Acer schneiderianum

E1 - Species with mainly 3-lobed leaves.
With untoothed leaf margins (6).



Acer sempervirens, Creten maple
Leaves with smoothish shiny ivy
like upper surface (3)



Acer tenellum, Delicate-leaved maple
Normal deciduous type leaves (3)

Other features to look for include:

1. Colour of leaf undersurface
2. Milky or watery sap in petioles
3. Leaf shape



Acer monspessulanum



Acer obtusifolium

E2 – Species with mainly 3-lobed leaves.

With numerous small teeth on leaf margins, lobes in lower half of leaf (9).



Acer tartaricum ssp. ginnala
Distinct lateral lobes with pointed tips (5)



Acer caudatifolium, Morrison's maple
Small lateral lobes with pointed to roundish tips (4)

Other features to look for include:

1. Leaf margins, teeth shape
2. Colour of leaf hairs on leaf underside
3. Leaf dimensions



Acer pectinatum



Acer stachyophyllum

E3 – Species with mainly 3-lobed leaves.

With numerous small teeth on leaf margins, lobes on outer half of leaves (9).



Acer morifolium, Mulberry leaf maple
Clear snakebark striping on bark (5)



Acer pycnanthum, Japanese red maple
Maples without snakebark striping on bark (4)

Other features to look for include:

1. Bark
2. Colour of hairs on underside of leaf
3. Leaf margins, teeth shape



Acer capillipes



Acer rufinerve

F – Species with unlobed leaves (11).



Acer fabri, Fabri's maple
Leaf distinctly more than twice as
long as wide (5)



Acer distylum, Lime leaved maple
Leaf usually < twice as long as
wide (6)

Other features to look for include:

1. Whether leaf upper surface is shiny or glossy.
2. Colour leaf undersurface
3. General leaf shape



Acer davidii



Acer carpinifolia

Key features of summer/leaf key

1. Number of lobes, can be tricky
2. Teeth shape, size or absent
3. Leaf size
4. Milky or watery sap in petiole
5. Stalked buds

What success?

1. 80-90% with practice
2. Never use keys alone, confirm with full description



What other features?

