

Manitoba Maple *Acer negundo*

(Ash leaf Maple, Box elder)

Irregular in form, the Manitoba maple likes moist soils. In open areas it will split near the ground into long spreading limbs which are perfect for climbing. The leaves are compound, similar to the ash tree. Keys are abundant and have sharp angles.



Habitat

The Manitoba Maple or box elder grows in Southern Manitoba extending eastward to Ontario and south as far as Florida and New Mexico. Swamp land, lakeshores, the banks of streams or any area that is seasonally flooded are preferred growing spots. It is a fast growing tree but short-lived and easily damaged by ice and wind.



Size and Form:

Growing up to 20 m high, and approximately 75 cm in diameter, the Manitoba Maple is a smaller tree. In the forest the trunk can become long and straight, however in the open it is divided near the ground into a few long, spreading, limbs that branch irregularly to support the broad crown. The root system is shallow and sometimes there is a tap root in deeper soils.

Leaves:

The light green leaves are uniquely compounded and composed of 3 to 9 leaflets on a central stock. Each leaflet can be from 5 to 12 cm long with a coarsely toothed edge, resembling a very shallow lobe. The leaflets appear asymmetrical on the stalk except for the leader which assumes a point position at the end of the leaf. Underneath the leaf is a grayish-green colour and hairless. In the autumn it turns yellow.

