

Freeman's Maple (Freeman Maple)

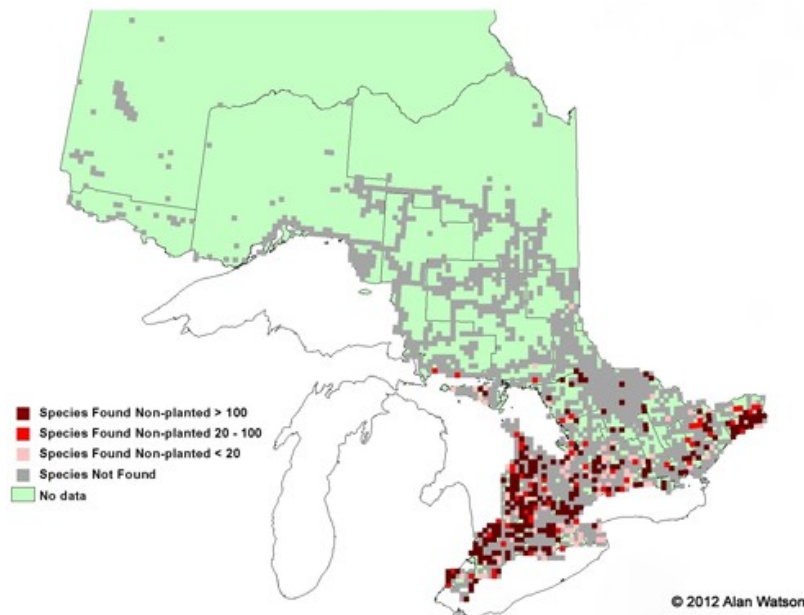
(Interchangeably referred to as *Acer rubrum x saccharinum* or *Acer x freemanii*)

RECOGNITION: Freeman Maple is a naturally occurring hybrid of two native maple parents – red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). The hybridization takes the best qualities of both parents. The green leaves turn a yellow and orange-red colour in the fall, with leaves sometimes appearing blotchy with red, yellow and orange on the same leaf.



<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/redxsilvermaple>

HABITAT: The Freeman Maple prefers moist, acidic soils with good drainage and is more tolerant of high pH soils than the native red maple. They are therefore not as susceptible to displaying chlorotic leaf conditions (yellow leaves) induced by iron deficiency. This species will tolerate wet conditions and even standing water for extended periods, but will also grow well in dry soils. They are a lesser known native maple species found growing naturally in parts of southern Ontario and the Lake States.



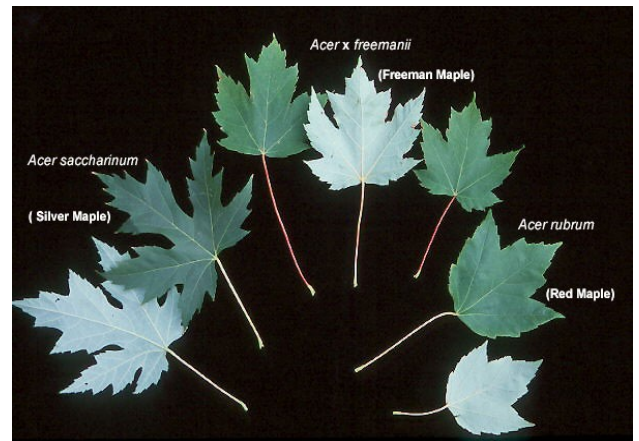
Ontario Tree Atlas map of non-planted Freeman's Maples. 1995-1999.
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/redxsilvermaple>



<https://landscapeontario.com/acer-x-freemanii-freeman-maple>

SIZE AND FORM: This species can grow 50-80 feet with a solid structure, upright to broad oval form and rapid growth. It is reported to grow up to 4 times faster than its red maple parent. It should be noted that the fast growth can develop into poor structure, and can be liable to large limb failure, similar to silver maple.

LEAVES: The leaves have 5 lobes and tend to take on the characteristics of either parent species and have notches less wide than silver maple, but larger and deeper than that of the red maple. The upper surface is dark green, smooth and glossy, paler and smooth underneath. Serration along the leaf margins is more similar to that of the silver than the red maple. The petioles can be either red or green.



<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/acer-freemanii>



Bark

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/things-to-see/trees/redxsilvermaple>

BARK: The bark is a silver-gray colour which is thin and smooth when young, but forms fissures with age.

BUDS: Twigs are brown-red presenting oppositely arranged red buds in the winter. There is only 1 terminal bud which is larger than the side buds.



Buds

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/things-to-see/trees/redxsilvermaple>

FLOWERS: Flowers are inconspicuous clusters of inflorescences appearing in early spring. Some trees will have both male and female flowers, some will have only male flowers.

FRUITS AND SEEDS: When present, the fruit is more similar to the silver than the red maple. The paired winged seeds also known as samaras hang in pendulous clusters which mature to yellow-brown in late spring.

PROPAGATION: Freeman's Maple trees grown from seedlings planted into nursery fields will have varying morphological characteristics common to the species.



<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/things-to-see/trees/redxsilvermaple>

NOTES: The species is named for Oliver M. Freeman of the U.S. National Arboretum who hybridized *A. rubrum* with *A. saccharinum* in 1933, formally naming the species in 1969 as *Acer x freemanii*.

There are many Freeman's Maple cultivars for sale in the industry today, such as *Acer x freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze', 'Armstrong' and 'Celebration'. Cultivars are plants produced in cultivation in a selective breeding program or by vegetative propagation. They are grown from cuttings or by grafting (not from seed) and produce nearly identical offspring to the parent tree. They have been chosen due to their desirable traits such as improved tolerance to drought, hardiness, form, growth rate, and fall colour.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ONLY the Freeman's Maple species (*Acer rubrum x saccharinum* or *Acer x freemanii*) is eligible to qualify for Rebate consideration. All cultivars developed from any Native Maple, will NOT be eligible for Rebate consideration.

Resources:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/redxsilvermaple>

<https://landscapeontario.com/acer-x-freemanii-freeman-maple>

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/freemans-maple#:~:text=Leaf%20or%20needle%20arrangement%2C%20size%2C%20shape%2C%20texture%2C%20and%20color&text=The%205%2Dlobed%20leaves%20are,to%20yellow%2C%20variable%20by%20cultivar>

Photos:

<https://landscapeontario.com/acer-x-freemanii-freeman-maple>

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/acer-freemanii>

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/redxsilvermaple>