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MAPLE LEAVES
FOREVER

Plant Native Maples this Spring

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN for our **25% Thank You Rebate** on eligible purchases of **10 - 50 native Canadian maples** for **SPRING** planting.

Spring Rebate Applications will be accepted until
May 15, 2021.

Trees must be planted by **May 15** for bare root stock, and
by **June 15** for balled & burlapped and container stock.

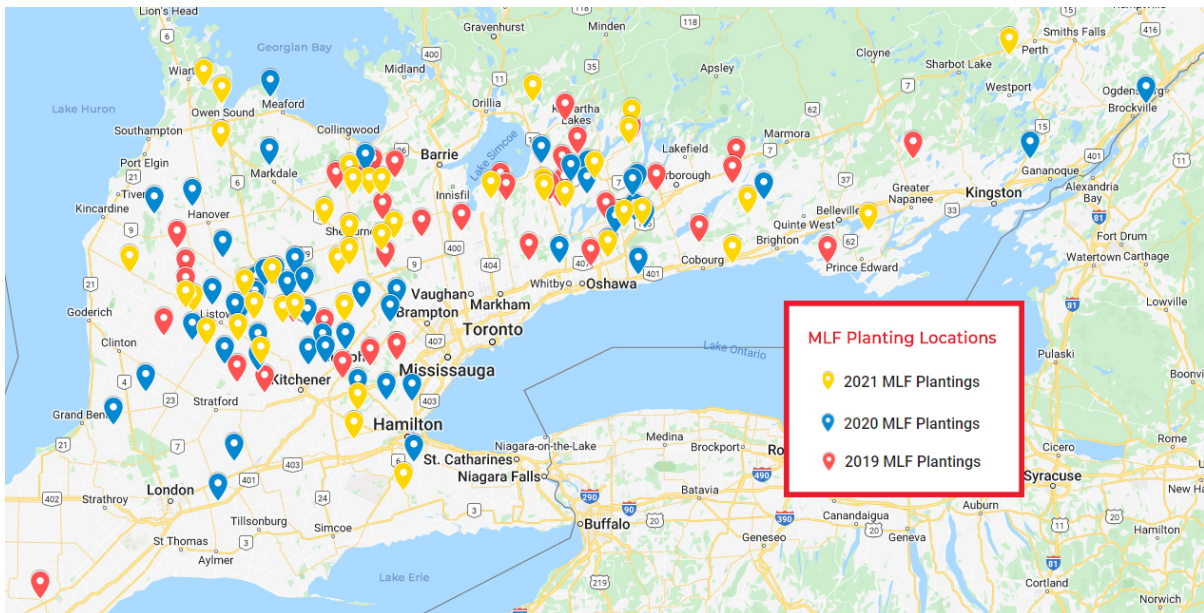
[Apply for Rebate](#)

[Start Your Planting Plan](#)

A Spring Message from our Executive Director Deb Pella Keen

One of the quintessentially Canadian sign of spring's arrival is seeing maple sap dripping into pails or tubing systems across the range of maples in Ontario and eastern Canada. If you are interested in the "Ultimate To-Do List" of maple syrup festivals, events and sugar shack activities in Ontario - please visit todoontario.com/maple-festivals/. There are

Spring is a busy time at Maple Leaves Forever, it is the season when we receive the most interest in and support for the planting of native maple trees. We recently undertook a mapping exercise to see the extent of our impact in southern Ontario. Check out this map showing the locations of road side, laneway or hedgerow plantings that were supported by Maple Leaves Forever over the last 3 years.



We are hoping this map will encourage landowners in areas under-represented by roadside plantings to contact us to learn more about our [incentive program](#) to support the planting of native maple trees.

I hope you will take the time to read Caitlin's tree nursery news as it speaks to an important challenge we have in planting native maples that have the best chance for survival. She has made some suggestions on what you can do to help address these challenges!

And finally, stay tuned for the launch of our **Heritage Maple Scavenger Hunt** where we will be offering a cash incentive for sharing locations of rows of heritage native maples in your area! We want to document the locations of 100+ year old maple plantings along roadsides, laneways and property boundaries in Ontario. We recently published an informative essay about the [History of Roadside Tree Planting in Ontario by Terry Schwan](#) – and it has inspired us to catalogue their locations and share these heritage plantings for all to enjoy, and to encourage ongoing native maple planting for the future. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) where we'll be releasing information on this new initiative in the coming months.

Happy Sweet Spring!

Deb Pella Keen and the Maple Leaves Team

Maple News

Tree Nursery Challenges : Sourcing Native Ontario Tree Seed, why it's important and how consumers can make a difference.

Landscape Ontario's annual Nursery Grower's Short Course, on the topic of Ontario Seed.

Article Excerpt: "There are many reasons why our nursery growers have difficulty in sourcing native seed, the most consistent being the issue of supply shortages. This can be caused by things like loss of habitat and biodiversity due to development or invasive pest/plant species and severe climate events.

Another factor contributing to this supply issue is the loss of the Ontario Seed Bank as a reliable source for regionally appropriate collected seed. This closure increased the need for growers to explore other avenues in sourcing their seed, whether it be collecting themselves, engaging the services of a certified seed collector or purchasing seed from outside of Ontario.

Although these may seem like viable options in order to meet the demand, there are challenges in each scenario. In addition to the time and labour it requires to monitor and collect the seed, there is a need for specialized equipment for processing and storage in order to ensure good quality and viability. These additional operations can be very expensive and may not be in line with their desired volume of seed..."

[Read the full blog post](#) to learn about why native seed sourcing is important and what you can do to help!



Photo: Bee on Red maple flower (firstlighthabitats.com)

MLF-Sponsored Initiatives



MLF Supports Ontario Envirothon

This spring, high school students in communities across Ontario will take learning

Maple Leaves Forever is proud to be a key supporter of the Ontario Envirothon program, a virtual interactive experience that encourages high-school students to learn about environmental science, natural systems, problem solving and teamwork - all while making a meaningful contribution to the community science platform iNaturalist! You can follow the action by checking out the [2022 Ontario Envirothon iNaturalist project](#).

And it doesn't end there! A select number of student teams will receive an invitation to advance to the Provincial Ontario Envirothon competition running from May 16-18. Here, teams will put their creativity, teamwork, and public speaking skills to the test for a chance to be crowned Ontario Envirothon Champions!

Know a team of students interested in participating? Registration will remain open until April 14.

[CLICK HERE for Registration Info and Details.](#)



Maple Care & Planting

MAPLE PLANTING AND TREE CARE CALENDAR ~ SPRING ~

April

- pick up trees at nursery or take delivery of trees from nursery
- if you haven't already - apply for [MLF Thank You Rebate](#) on your maple tree purchase! Application deadline is May 15.
- take care to properly [transport and deliver](#) your native maples prior to planting
- [new planting](#) – plant when soil conditions are favourable
- check for [Spongy moth egg masses \(formerly known as gypsy moth or LDD moth\)](#) - Egg masses can be destroyed until the end of April
- [water](#) deeply and thoroughly; [add mulch](#)
- [stake](#) newly planted trees, if necessary
- prepare a plan for watering the trees through the growing season
- established plantings – [add or replace mulch](#) and clear surrounding weeds

May

- **new plantings** – **stake**, **water thoroughly**, **add mulch** & clear surrounding weeds
- **water as needed**, frequency & duration will increase in dry conditions
- fertilize established but not newly planted trees
- monitor for presence of insects or other pests
- **Trees should be planted by May 15** for bare root stock, and by **June 15** for balled & burlapped and container stock.

Late May or when leaves have fully formed

- monitor the development of new growth & if necessary re-establish terminal leader
- remove (prune) any basal sprouts that may be present – prune to soil line
- **check for seeds on mature red, red/silver hybrid and silver maples if interested in harvesting** or know of others interested in collecting these varieties of maple seed
(Seed matures in late May/early June)

June

- **new planting** (container grown and B&B) – **water** slowly & deeply to get water down to the roots, clear surrounding weeds, **add mulch** & **stake** (if necessary)
- **water newly planted** & established maples as needed, frequency will increase during hot, dry conditions
- consider using **tree watering bags** to reduce risk of water stress
- fertilize established trees as recommended, but not newly planted trees
- monitor for presence of insects or other pests
- check for seed development on mature sugar maple trees if interested in **harvesting** or know of others interested in collecting sugar maple seed (seed matures in mid/late September)

[View our online MAPLE CARE CALENDAR](#)

for more details, year-round maple care & planting advice

Interested in Joining our Nursery Partner Program?

We are pleased to announce an exciting new program for aspiring nursery partners. The new Trial Partnership Program has launched and we are looking forward to hearing from you! Is your nursery passionate about growing and promoting the use of our native maples? Do you share our vision of Ontario's rural roads and laneways exploding with beauty and fall colour?

[Reach out to us](#) and let's start this conversation.

We can't wait to grow with you!

[FIND OUT MORE](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

HOW CAN YOU HELP? TELL A FRIEND!

If you recently received our Thank You Rebate, or



SHARE YOUR MAPLE PHOTOS - We love seeing photos and stories about your maple plantings - please email them to info@mapleleavesforever.ca.

[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Instagram](#)[LinkedIn](#)[YouTube](#)[Website](#)[Email](#)

Why did I get this?

We've put together this email news list to inform, update and remind our subsidy applicants, nursery partners, and anyone else who might be interested about our activities and encourage the planting and ongoing care of more native maples in rural Ontario!

We only send 3 or 4 emails a year. You can [unsubscribe](#) from these mailings at any time. No hard feelings.

Feel free to share and forward MLF News to your friends and neighbours - and encourage them to plant native Canadian maples too!

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