

UConn

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Plant Database

Acer pensylvanicum

Striped Maple, Snake Bark Maple

Aceraceae



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Habitat

- native to eastern United States and adjacent Canada
- zone 3
- typical grows as an understory tree in wooded areas

Habit and Form

- a small tree, typically 15' to 20' or taller
- develops a broad, uneven, flat-topped or rounded crown. Often irregular and open
- texture is medium to coarse
- often shrub like in the forest

Summer Foliage

- opposite, 3-lobed at apex
- 5" to 7" long and wide
- bright green

Autumn Foliage

- striking clear yellow; showy

Flowers

- yellow in pendulous chains
- in May

Fruit

- long samaras in pendulous chains

Bark

- young branches longitudinally striped white or green
- showy

Culture

- requires partial shade
- requires cool, moist, slightly acidic soil
- intolerant of pollution, drought, heat

Landscape Uses

- naturalistic planting
- along edge of woods
- specimen (in shade)

Liabilities

- not well suited to typical conditions of cultivation
- don't use unless an appropriate growing site exists
- susceptible to mower injury
- susceptible to canker under stress

ID Features

- terminal bud absent or present
- buds are purplish red and stalked with valvate scales
- striped bark

Propagation

- by seed

Cultivars/Varieties

'Erythrocladum' - An attractive selection that, though difficult to propagate, is available from specialty nurseries and seen in gardens. Young stems assume a bright red coloration after the leaves fall. The effect is very attractive coupled with the white stem striations, making this plant a fine choice for winter interest.

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