


**red maple** *Aceraceae Acer rubrum L.*  **symbol: ACRU**


**Leaf:** Opposite, simple, 3 to 5 palmate lobes with serrated margin, sinuses relatively shallow (but highly variable), 2 to 4 inches long; green above, whitened and sometimes glaucous or hairy beneath.

**Flower:** Attractive but small, occur in hanging clusters, usually bright red but occasionally yellow, appear in early spring, usually before leaves.

**Fruit:** Clusters of 1/2 to 3/4 inch long samaras with slightly divergent wings, on long slender stems. Light brown and often reddish, ripen in late spring and early summer.

**Twig:** Reddish and lustrous with small lenticels, buds usually blunt, green or reddish (fall and winter) with several loose scales usually present, leaf scars V-shaped, 3 bundle scars, lateral buds slightly stalked, may be collateral buds present.

**Bark:** On young trees, smooth and light gray, with age becomes darker and breaks up into long, fine scaly plates.

**Form:** Medium sized tree up to 90 feet. In forest, trunk usually clear for some distance, in the open the trunk is shorter and the crown rounded.



[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#) - [USDAFS Additional Silvics - Landowner Factsheet](#) - [USDA Plants Database](#)

*Acer rubrum* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting red maple](#) (opens a new window).

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