

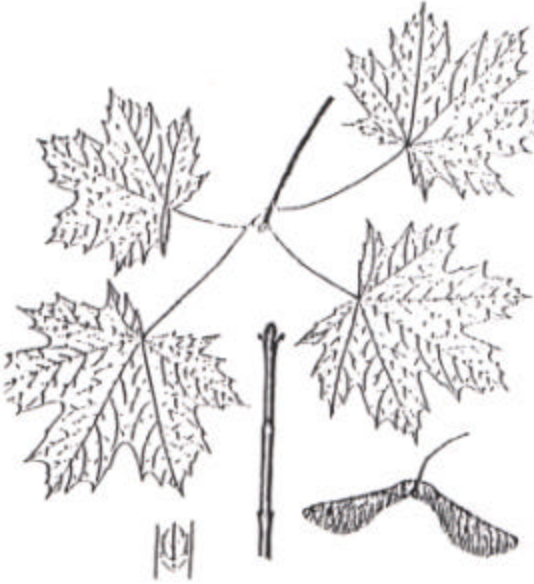
# INVASIVE EXOTICS

## Norway Maple

*Acer platanoides*

Maple Family (Aceraceae)

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**What does it look like?** Norway maple, native to Eurasia, closely resembles its native relative, the sugar maple, with a hand-shaped leaf. Norway maple can be distinguished from the sugar maple by the milky sap that oozes when a Norway maple leaf is broken off. The dark green leaf underside is smooth and turns a brownish-yellow in the fall, whereas the native sugar maple has a beautiful yellow-orange to deep red fall color. Norway maple bark is regularly grooved and the flowers appear in upright green clusters.

**What habitats are threatened by this plant?** Norway maple can invade native woodlands with little to no problem. This tree exhibits a high tolerance of shade and is very efficient in using water and nutrients. In the spring, Norway maple is the first tree in the forest to sprout leaves and the last to drop them in the fall. Due to the heavy shade it produces early in the spring, Norway maple prevents wildflower growth that would normally occur under native canopy trees. It also excretes a toxic substance from its roots, which inhibits growth of other tree seedlings and wildflowers under its canopy.

**How does this plant spread?** Norway maple was introduced as an ornamental shade tree in Philadelphia in 1762. Today it is the most planted street tree in the U.S. Invasions are reported from Massachusetts to Washington D.C., in Ontario and also in the Pacific Northwest. Norway maple spreads by seed dispersal into open lots and established woodlands.

**How can it be controlled?** Eliminate Norway maple from use as a street tree and substitute native trees, such as sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and American planetree or sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Seedlings and saplings can be hand-pulled or dug out. Root sprouts quickly appear unless all of the roots are removed. Girdling of the trunk followed by a painting of a glyphosate herbicide, such as Roundup, in the girdled area, proves effective on large trees only in settings where the falling over of the tree will not create a hazard. (Follow label directions when applying any herbicide.) Otherwise, cutting down the tree at the base is effective.

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