

# The Maple

## Classification

Kingdom: Piante  
Division: Magnolioliphyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Sapindales  
Family: Aceraceae  
Genus: Acer  
**Common name:** Maple

## Generalities:

The maple grows to 15-20 m, it has a often twisted, short trunk, sometimes divided and branched and tilted. The plan assumes, not infrequently, a shrubby form. The crown is roundish, with thick branches, the ends of the branches tend first down, then up. The young branches often have corky and radial expansion. The tree is slow growing and can live up to almost 200 years.



## Leaves

Leaves are simple, petiolate and appear similar to a leg of duck, because they are webbed. They have 3 to 5 quates with beveled edges. There are more than 10 cm wide and have a heart-shaped base with an opposite insertion. The color is bright green above and pale green on the lower page which is more or less hairy, velvety, especially along the veins. The leaves are deciduous, they are red-gold in autumn, while the new ones are pinky. especially along the veins. The leaves are deciduous, they are red-gold in autumn, while the new ones are pinky.

## Flowers

They are unisexual, (they are divided into male and female) and They are in erect corymbus terminal, with about 1oflorers, each with five sepals and five petals. They are small and greenish yellow color. Flowering in April-May during the foliation.



## Fruits

They are called samaras. The samaras have a very particular form that makes them unuque: the seeds are enclosed in two fruits, called achenes, without pulp, united at the base and with a long membranous wing. This wing is horizontally divergent, forming an angle of almost 100 gradi. These wings help to swing wildly when the seed fall, moving it away from the plant that produced it, thus promoting dissemination.

## Wood and Cortex

The bark varies from species to species, while the maple wood, light and compact with fine ribbing, is very popular for furniture, tools, household and work on the lathe. It is used as fuel, even if it bums rather quickly.

The bark is gray or brown, furrowed with cracks delimiting small chips.

