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Acer pensylvanicum

[Synonyms : *Acer pensylvanicum*, *Acer striatum*]

MOOSEWOOD is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to eastern North America it has small yellowish-green flowers and leaves which turn bright yellow in Autumn.

It is also known as Buckwood, Goosefoot maple, *Javor pensylvánský* (Czech), Moose bark, Mountain alder, Mountain elder, Northern maple, Pennsylvanian maple, *Pennsylvanianvaahtera* (Finnish), Snake-bark maple, *Streifen-Ahorn* (German), *Strimlönn* (Swedish), Striped dogwood, Striped logwood, Striped maple, and Whistlewood.

Pensylvanicum means ‘of or from Pennsylvania (United States)’.

The thin bark can provide food for rodents in Winter, and it is said that moose eat the plant to help broken bones to heal.

The North American Micmac Indian tribe used the inner bark to make a drink.

Chippewa Indians fashioned the pinkish-brown wood into arrows and gambling dice, while the Cherokee burnt the wood as fuel.

It is believed to have been introduced to Britain in 1755.

Moosewood seems to have been especially popular medicinally for some of the North American Indian tribes. Both the Iroquois and the Chippewa tribes prescribed a decoction of bark to cause vomiting, and the Iroquois also employed it as a laxative. A decoction was applied by the Iroquois as a poultice to treat paralysis, and this was also applied by the Penobscot to swollen limbs. A plant infusion was taken as a medicinal tea by the Algonkin, and it was used by the Penobscot for kidney disorders and as a tonic. The Micmac Indians used the bark to treat coughs. Both the Penobscot and Micmac tribes used the wood to treat some venereal problems. The Micmac Indians also used moosewood to treat some kidney conditions.