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### *Acer platanoides*

[Synonyms : *Acer globosum*, *Acer platanoides* var. *schwendleri*]

**NORWAY MAPLE** is a deciduous tree. Native to Europe and western Asia it has small greenish-yellow flowers and leaves that turn yellow (occasionally scarlet) in Autumn. It is also known as *Acero plataneca* (Esperanto), *Acero platano* (Italian), *Ahorn* (German), *Ak ag* (Turkish), *Arțar*, *paltin de câmp* (Rumanian), *Érable plane* (French), *Érable platane* (French), European maple, *Javor mlíč* (Czech), *Javor mlěčný* (Czech), *Javor mliečny* (Slav), *Lönn* (Swedish), *Norwegischerahorn* (German), *Skogslönn* (Swedish), *Spitzahorn* (German), *Spitzblättriger Ahorn* (German), and *Vaahtera* (Finnish).

The leaves of Norway maple are larger and thinner than those of the sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

*Platanoides* is made up of the genus name *Platanus* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like a plane tree (*Platanus*)’.

In Norway and Sweden the sap (although less sweet than the North American sugar maples) has been used as a sweetening for many foods or made into a drink.

The leaves would appear to have a preservative property as they are sometimes wrapped around apples or root crops before storage.

It is believed to have been introduced to Britain in 1683.

The bark will yield a rose-coloured dye.

The elastic but very hard and heavy, reddish-white wood is used commercially for turning and coachwork, and for making furniture, and rifle butts.

The trees have been cultivated as both a windbreak and a screen. Today they are also valued as a fast-growing street tree.

In the realms of companion planting, Norway maple is viewed askance by gardeners as it can inhibit the growth of neighbouring plants.