


**red maple** [Aceraceae](#) *Acer rubrum* L.  symbol: ACRU

**vTree**

**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.

**Looks like:** [silver maple](#) - [mountain maple](#) - [mapleleaf viburnum](#) - [sugar maple](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Acer rubrum* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting red maple.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)  
[Horticulture](#)

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