

Acer negundo L.

Boxelder

Aceraceae
Section *Negundo* Series *Negundo*

In cultivation by 1688
Named by Linnaeus in 1753.
Introduced to Europe 1838.
Specific epithet: *Negundo*, an old generic name for *Acer*, used by J. Ray in 1698 and derived from the similarity to *Vitex negundo* (Van Gelderen, 170).
Native range: U.S., S Canada, N Mexico

Arboretum Location: Northeast
Quantity: 1
Planting Date: unknown

Culture: full sun;
moisture soil, and drainage requirements: very adaptable (its natural habitat is lowlands and wet sites, but it can really take the heat and drier soils).

A medium sized tree (30-50') with a rounded, broadly spreading crown

Flowers: insignificant
yellow-green
Dioecious; male: corymbs, female: racemes
very early spring

Leaves: light green above, grayish-green below
2-4"
pinnately compound, with 3-5 leaflets
ovate, very coarsely serrate, terminal leaflet has 3 lobes
fall color: yellow-green, not good
gives the tree one of its common names, Ash-leaved Maple

Fruit: samara (schizocarp)
yellowish>brown
wings: maximum angle 60°
each wing 1-1.5"
Sept.-October, persistent into winter

Bark: gray-brown, ridged, more furrowed with age
Twig: green>red>brown; pith solid, white; white bloom
Buds: .25", green>red scales

Maintenance: minimal
Pruning: minimal, but can take hard pruning
Insect and Disease Problems: no problems in the Maxwell specimen; Boxelder Bugs, not harmful
Landscape Use: for tough sites

Native Use:
The Meskwaki and Ojibwe use the inner bark as an emetic, while the Chiricahua and Mescalero Apache boil it for a sweetener. Numerous tribes, including the Omaha, Dakota, Pawnee, Ho-Chunk, Winnebago, and Cree, use the tree's sap as a sweetener. The Cheyenne mixed it with shavings from the inside of animal hides to make a candy. The Cheyenne are known to have used its wood for cooking meat. And tribes in the tree's native range carved its wood into bowls, drums, pipestems, and other articles.
Cultural and Historical Information: Keres Indians used boxelder twigs for Prayer Sticks. The Cheyenne burned the tree's wood during their Sun Dances and the Kiowa did the same at their Peyote Ceremony alters. Omahas and Dakotas used charcoal made from boxelder for ceremonial painting and tattooing.

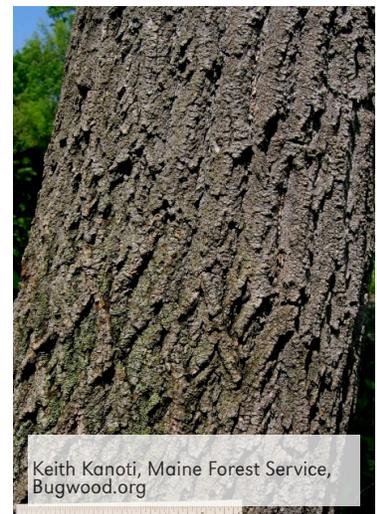


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Notes: Boxelder is often maligned as a trashy weed tree and therefore is not often recommended for planting. I think if people saw our specimen at north end of the arboretum, they might disagree.

There are also many improved cultivars so if you need a fast-growing tree for tough sites or just want to plant more native trees, this could be the tree for you. Look for 'Sensation' for good red fall color; 'Baron' from Morden Station, Canada, a male selection that is reportedly free of seed; 'Flamingo' whose green leaves are variegated with white and pink; 'Kelly's Gold' has yellow leaves all summer; 'Variegatum' with fruits and leaves that are green with white variegations.



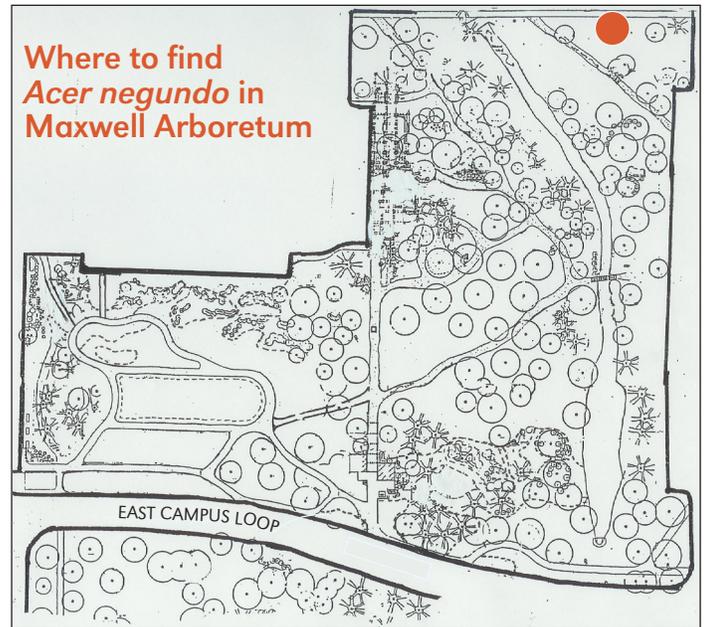
Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org



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From: Afbeeldingen der fraaiste, meest uitheemsche boomen en heesters by Johan Carl Krauss. Amsterdam, Johannes Allart, 1802 [-1808]. Hand-coloured engraving (sheet 230 x 280 mm).



Where to find
Acer negundo in
Maxwell Arboretum

Visit unlgardens.unl.edu

