**Acer platanoides L.**  
**Norway Maple**

**Aceraceae**  
**Section Platanoida**

Named by Linnaeus in 1753; in cultivation centuries prior.  
Introduced to England 1683, to U.S. 1870.  
Specific epithet: *Platanoides*, like a *Platanus* (Sycamore)  
Native range: Northern Europe

Maxwell Arboretum Locations:  
Straight species: Northeast (2), Holdrege Frontage West (1) planted 1985, Holdrege Frontage East (1) planted spring 1990  
‘Emerald Lustre® (‘Pond‘): Yeutter East  
‘Jade Glen™: Holdrege Frontage East (1), planted spring 1990  
‘Olmstead’: CYT Library SW (1)  
‘Superform’: Gazebo south, planted spring 1992

Culture: full sun;  
Norway maples are pollution tolerant and are adaptable to a wide range of soils, including fairly dry for a maple.

A medium sized tree (40-50’ × almost as much) with a rounded, broadly spreading crown.

Flowers: significant and good  
creamy  
early spring  
1/3” corymbs

Leaves: dark green above, glabrous  
4-7” × same  
palmate, 5-lobed, acuminate  
fall color: yellow, gold, orange-red

Fruit: samara (schizocarp)  
yellowish-brown  
wings: angle nearly horizontal  
each wing 1.5-2.5”  
nutlets flat

Bark: black-brown, ridged and furrowed with age  
Twig: smooth and glabrous  
Buds: large rounded terminal bud, all buds can have maroon tinge

Maintenance: minimal  
Pruning: minimal  
Insect and Disease Problems: verticillium wilt can be a concern; none of the specimens in Maxwell have serious problems  
Landscape Use: generally overused; parks, streets, large residential

Norway Maple has many excellent cultivars, but Dirr writes that it has been “overused and over-rated.” Nevertheless, the species was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of garden Merit in 1993.  
The sap of the Norway Maple is milky.
Acer platanoides
Cultivars in Maxwell Arboretum

‘Emerald Lustre®’ (‘Pond’) Introduced by Bailey Nurseries, 1979. 50-60’ × same. Round-oval canopy, glossy green foliage, yellow fall foliage; selected by Don Pond. From the patent application: “A new and distinct variety of Norway Maple, botanically known as Acer platanoides is provided. The new variety is distinguished from the regular Norway Maple by a marked tendency to branch at an early stage of development and a more vigorous growth habit. Also, the leaves of the new variety are darker green in color, and less pronounced lenticels are exhibited.” PP4,837; April 13, 1982. MAP NUMBER: 1

‘Jade Glen’ J. Frank Schmidt & Son introduction, 1970. 40-50’ × same, rounded canopy, fast growing, more open crown, yellow fall foliage. McGill & Son Nursery. MAP NUMBER: 2


‘Superform’, J. Frank Schmidt & Son, 1969. Straight trunk, good form, rapid growth, heavy dark-green foliage. Name changed from ‘Miller’s Superform’ when Schmidt took over Milton Nursery originator of the cultivar. MAP NUMBER: 4

Where to find Acer platanoides in Maxwell Arboretum