

# *Acer rubrum* L.

## Red Maple

Aceraceae  
Section *Rubra*

Named by Linnaeus in 1753; in cultivation centuries prior.  
Introduced to Europe 1656  
Native range: Eastern U.S.

### Maxwell Arboretum Cultivar Locations:

'Autumn Flame': Holdrege Frontage West 4, planted fall 1992  
'Doric': CYT Library SW  
'Northwood': Yeutter East, planted spring 1999

Culture: NOT for hot, dry, windy sites  
Soil: adaptable  
Prefers moist sites

A large tree to 100' but generally 40-60'. Pyramidal in youth then developing a broad, oval crown. Check individual cultivars.

Flowers: significant and good  
red  
early spring  
male and female on separate inflorescences  
both monoecious and dioecious  
March-April

Leaves: dark green above, blue-gray below  
glabrous above, hairy veins below  
2-5"  
palmate, simple, 3-5-lobed, roughly sharp-toothed  
fall color: yellow-orange-red

Fruit: samara (schizocarp)  
wings are red-brown, angle 60°  
each wing to 1"  
ripen at end of May

Bark: gray; smooth when young, becoming rough with age  
Buds: red, 4-7 pairs of rounded scales

Wildlife Use: browse for deer, moose, elk, snowshoe hare; seeds for birds; cavity nests for wood ducks, screech owl, flicker, pileated woodpecker

Native Use: Cherokee: bark infusion for cramps, drunk hot for measles; anti-diarrheal, hives; inner bark boiled in water for eye wash (also by Iroquois, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe); fibers for baskets. Abnaki and Algonquins used the sap for sweetener; Iroquois: dried the bark, pounded it to flour, and used for making "bread." the Potawatomi and Iroquois boiled their hunting traps in water with bark infusion to deodorise them. The Koasati used a bark infusion to treat gunshot wounds. Many tribes, including the Ojibwe represented the red maple leaf in their beadwork designs.

Historical/Cultural Information: Anglo-American settlers in the Eastern U.S. used the tree for making dyes and inks.

Maintenance: minimal  
Pruning: minimal  
Insect and Disease Problems: not usually a problem, none of the Red Maples in Maxwell Arboretum present significant problems  
Landscape Use: street, residential, parks, specimen

Notes: hardiness is important; be sure provenance is right for your zone  
many parts of Red maples are red: the buds, the flowers, the samaras, the autumn leaves.



Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org



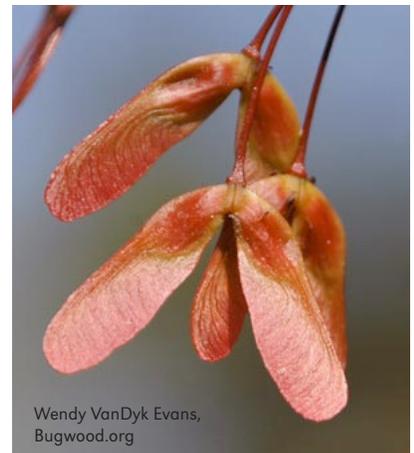
Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org

*Acer rubrum*  
Cultivars in Maxwell Arboretum

'Autumn Flame' Collins, 1964; released by McGill & Sons Nursery in Fairview, OR. The patent (PP2377) claims the tree colors early in the fall and the turned leaves last longer than the species and are a particularly "brilliant scarlet autumn color." Grows to 60'. Durr says, "A handsome selection." 1982. MAP NUMBER: 1

'Doric' Edward H. Scanlon introduction, 1967. A "tight, columnar form." Patent (PP2823) was filed Sept. 30, 1966 and states MAP NUMBER: 2

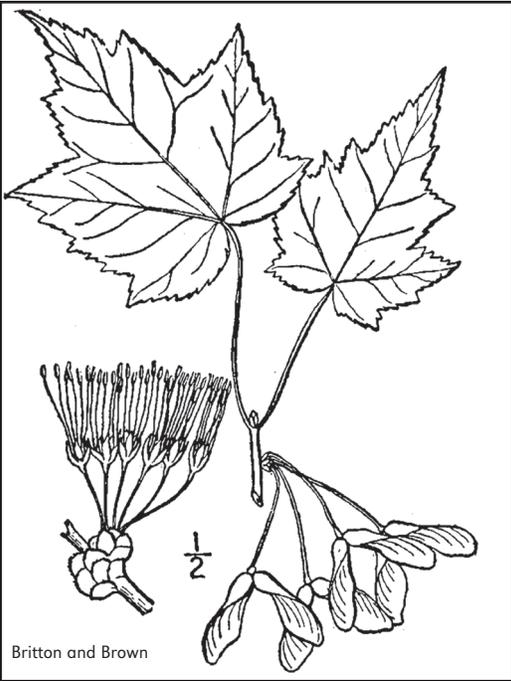
'Northwood' University of Minnesota. From the *Minnesota Experiment Station Miscellaneous Report 175-1980*: "Northwood Red Maple originated as a native seedling near Floodwood, Minnesota. It is superior to the species for its excellent form. The tree produces a round oval crown with branches ascending from the trunk at approximately a 45° angle. as a young tree it grows at a more rapid rate than other commonly grown cultivars." MAP NUMBER: 3



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Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

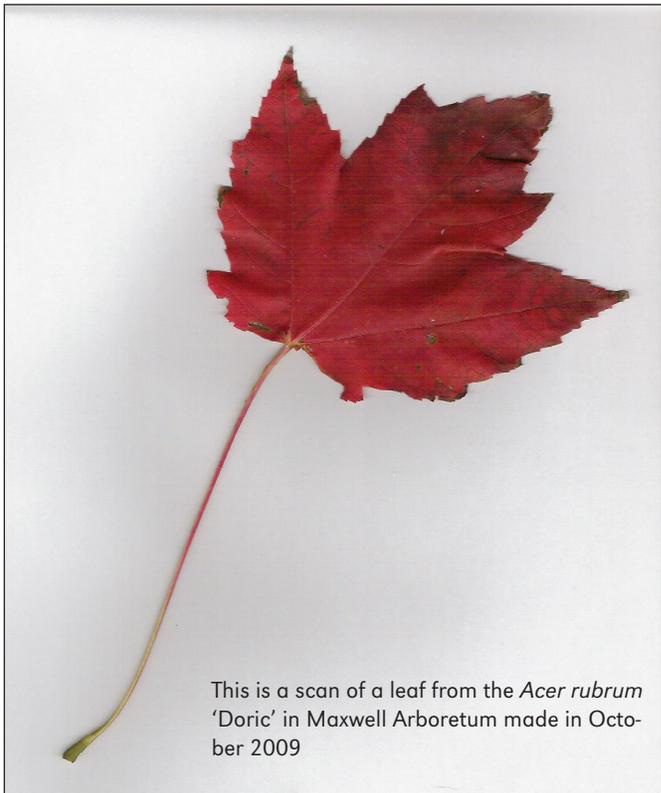
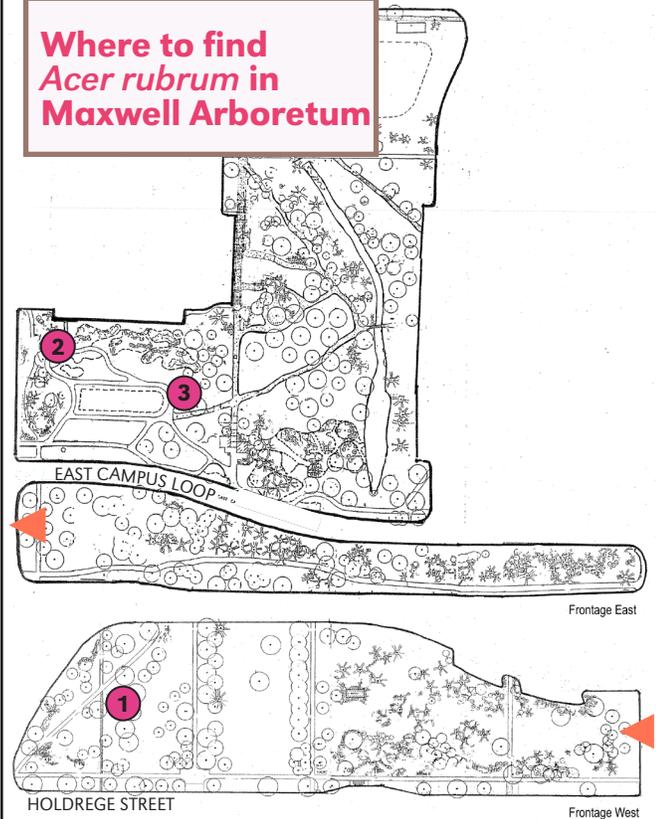


Britton and Brown



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Where to find  
*Acer rubrum*  
in Maxwell Arboretum



This is a scan of a leaf from the *Acer rubrum* 'Doric' in Maxwell Arboretum made in October 2009

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