

SYCAMORE MAPLE

Acer pseudoplatanus

Sycamore Maple is a species of maple native to central Europe and southwestern Asia. It is not related to the trees called Sycamore or Planetrees in the *Platanus* genus. It grows into a large tree with heights of 60 feet, and forms a broad, dense crown with dark green leaves. Its unique bark is the dominant characteristic in identifying this species. In young trees, the bark is smooth and gray. As it ages, the bark becomes rougher and breaks into scales exposing pale brownish to pinkish inner bark. The leaves are 5" wide with 3-5 lobes and coarsely toothed. The leafstalk is often red. The flowers are pale yellow in hanging 4-1½" long clusters appearing in early summer after the leaves. The winged fruit hangs in clusters in the late summer. The fruit wings spread is 1-¾" with a 90 degree or less angle. A Sycamore Maple is similar to a Norway Maple, but has coarser, toothed leaves, smooth scaly bark, and hanging clusters of flowers and fruit. And the leaf stalk of the Norway have a milky sap. In the United States, it has been planted as a park and street tree. This tree has been known to be a prolific seeder and regarded as a weed tree.



The cemetery has four mature Sycamore Maples— 2 are not in good shape. One is located a few yards to the east of the chapel on Mt. Laurel Ave., and the second is directly to the north of the entrance of the chapel in the front of the zigzag row of Norway Maples. The one on Mt. Laurel Ave. is full of bore holes and is leaking sap from the holes. It is most likely that the bore holes are from a Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker.

The other two Sycamore Maples are on the south side of Mt. Laurel Ave. midway down the hill from the west side of the chapel. These two are in better shape than the first two.

