



Acer cissifolium Ivy-Leaf Maple¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

Ivy-leaf maple reaches 20 to 30 feet in height and is equally wide, with a broad, rounded, very dense, fine-textured canopy (Fig. 1). The branches have a twisted and contorted growth habit which, along with the smooth, grey bark, creates an attractive winter silhouette. Upper branches are upright, middle ones horizontal and lower branches slightly pendulous. The crown is made up of a large number of finely-divided, small diameter branches with none really dominant.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Acer cissifolium*

Pronunciation: AY-ser siss-ih-FOLE-ee-um

Common name(s): Ivy-Leaf Maple

Family: *Aceraceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; hedge; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); near a deck or patio; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

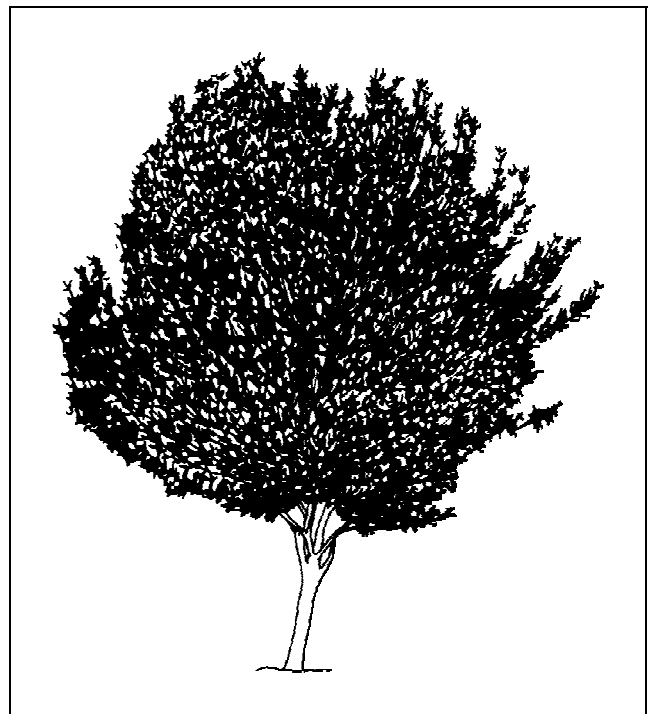


Figure 1. Middle-aged Ivy-Leaf Maple.

Crown shape: round

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: odd pinnately compound; trifoliate

Leaflet margin: serrate

Leaflet shape: obovate; ovate

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2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.

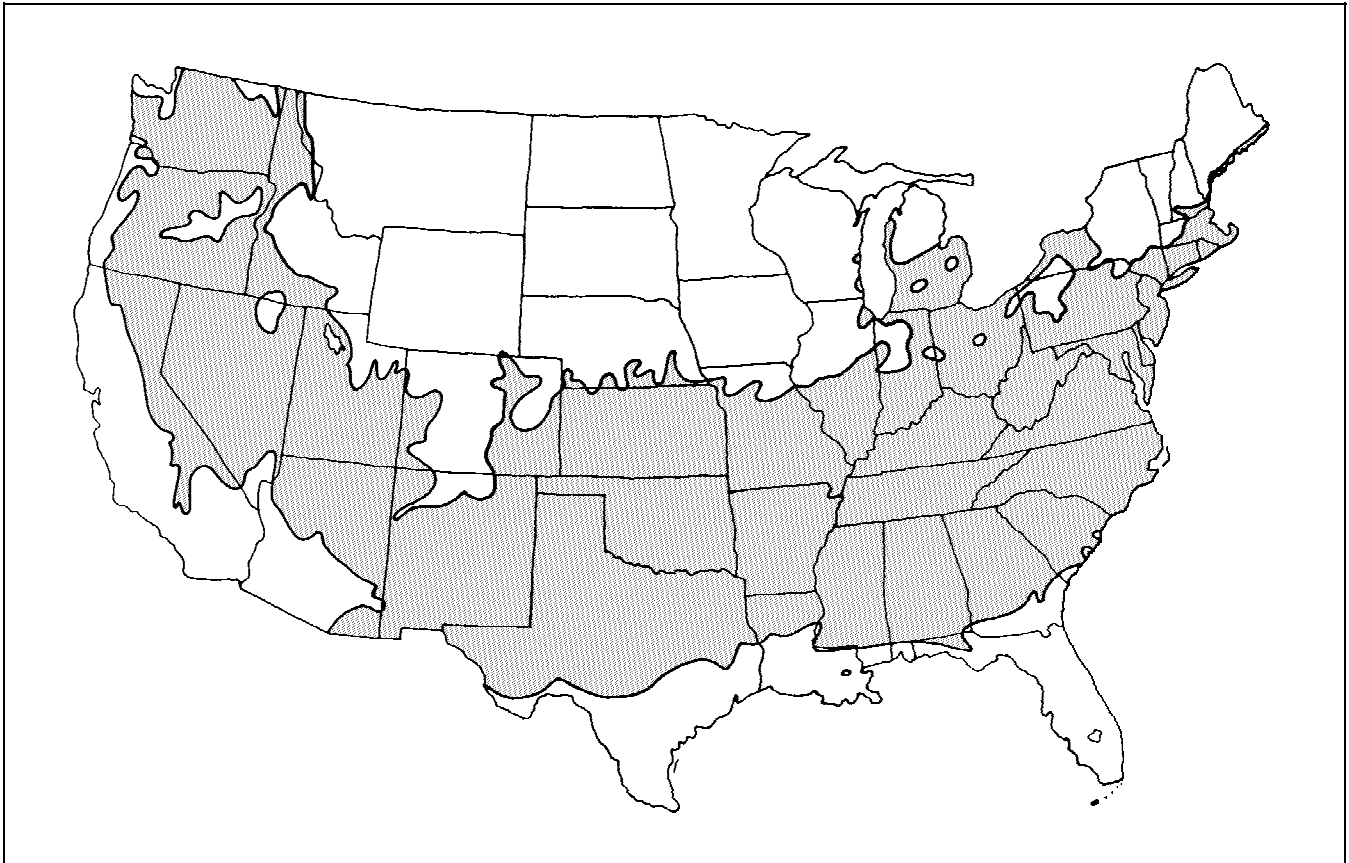


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaflet venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: red; yellow

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown; green

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green; reddish

Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter

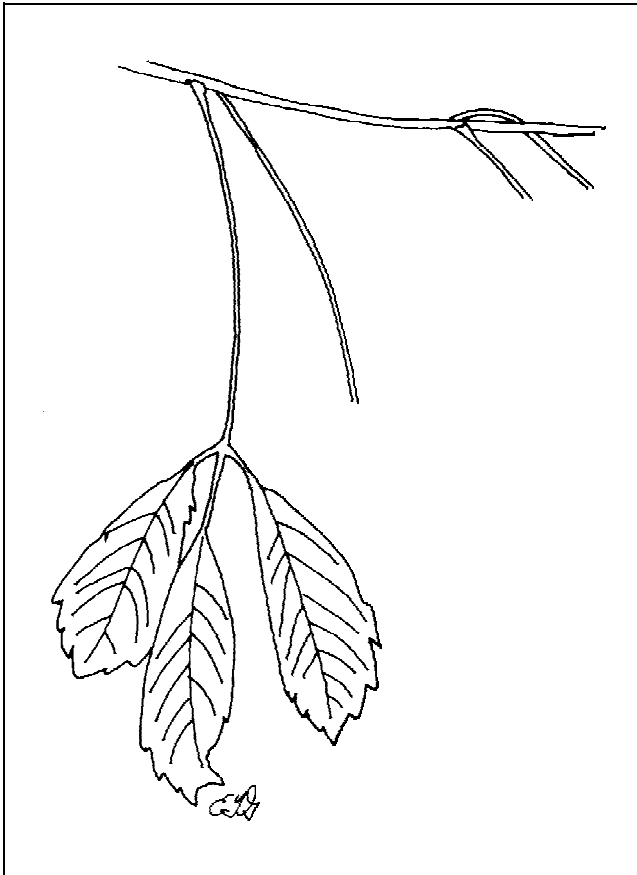


Figure 3. Foliage of Ivy-Leaf Maple.

trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The divided leaflets turn muted shades of red and yellow before dropping in fall. Probably best used as a patio tree or specimen, it could be tried as a street tree, particularly in areas where overhead space is restricted such as beneath power lines. It would make a lovely tree for planting on 20 foot centers along an entry driveway to a commercial landscape, or along a suburban street. Set them back from the street 8 to 12 feet if large trucks use the street regularly since the tree loses its attractiveness (just like the callery pears) when lower branches are removed for vehicle clearance. They can be planted closer if the street is residential and predominantly travelled by automobiles.

Ivy-leaf maple prefers a partially shaded location (particularly in the southern part of its range) but will grow well in full sun when grown on well-drained,

moist, acid soil. Tolerating drought without leaf scorch except in the driest, sandy soils, ivy-leaf maple appears to be a tough maple deserving greater usage in urban and suburban landscapes.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

It has problems similar to other maples.