



Acer triflorum Three-Flowered Maple¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

Three-Flowered Maple slowly grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet with an equal width, the dense, rounded canopy casting dense shade below (Fig. 1). The 1.5 to 3.5-inch-long, compound leaves are slightly hairy and turn attractive shades of orange and red in the fall before dropping. True to its name, Three-Flowered Maple produces three, greenish-yellow flowers clustered together in springtime and these are followed by 1 to 1.5-inch-long winged seeds which persist on the tree. The red/brown bark is quite attractive and peels off in long, thin strips.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Acer triflorum*

Pronunciation: AY-ser try-FLOR-um

Common name(s): Three-Flowered Maple

Family: *Aceraceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 3B through 7 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); near a deck or patio; screen; trainable as a standard; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree

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

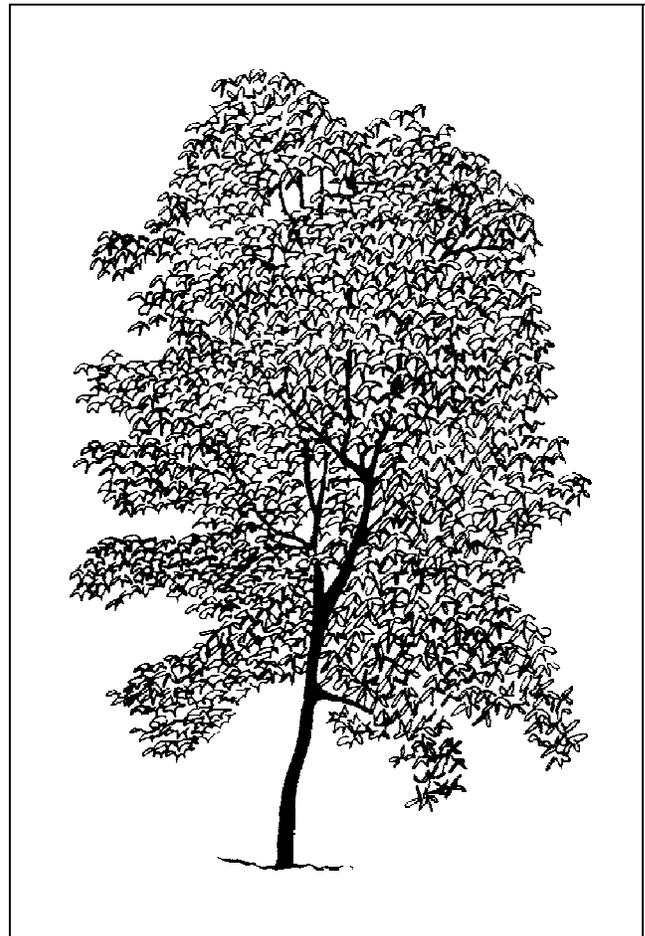


Figure 1. Young Three-Flowered Maple.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 15 to 25 feet

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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.

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

Crown shape: round; spreading

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: odd pinnately compound; trifoliate

Leaflet margin: entire

Leaflet shape: lanceolate; oblong

Leaflet venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaflet blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: orange; red; yellow

Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: green; yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: green; tan

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

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

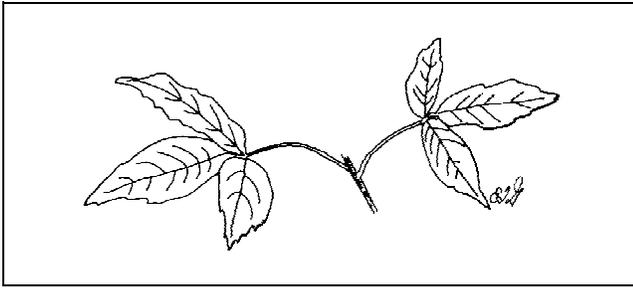


Figure 3. Foliage of Three-Flowered Maple.

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: medium; thin

Culture

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

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

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Soil salt 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
trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental
features and could be planted more

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

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not
affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

This handsome tree is well suited for use as a specimen planted in the lawn or in a low ground cover. The showy bark and fine texture combine to generate a striking display during the growing season. It provides interest in the winter when branches are bare to show the darkened bark which contrasts nicely against snow.

Three-Flowered Maple grows best in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soil. Due to its shallow root system, Three-Flowered Maple will not tolerate soil compaction. It does not tolerate soil which remains wet for periods of time.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.