

Field maple

Acer campestre



What to look for

Often shrub-like in hedges

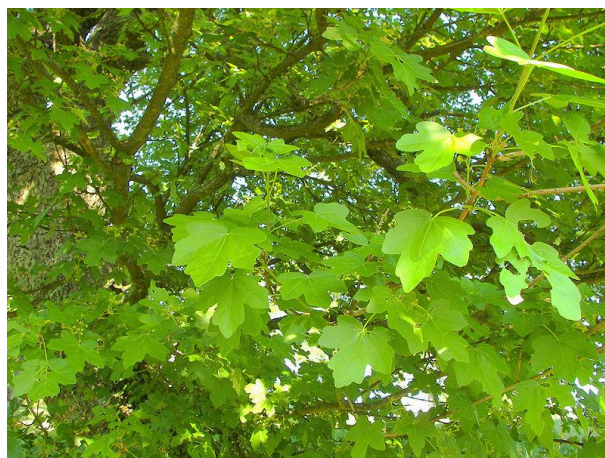
Can grow up to 20m tall

Hard green-brown, fissured bark

Leaves in April in opposite pairs, on a leaf stalk with milky sap

The lobed leaves show striking autumn colours and are much smaller than the related sycamore

Paired, winged fruits, like helicopter blades, are yellow-green tinged with crimson



Where found

The only native maple in the UK, found naturally in lowland England and Wales

When to look

Flowers and leaves appear together April

Leaves drop in November



Did you know?

Small and slow-growing, field maple produces one of the hardest and heaviest of the maple woods

It is valued for its fine grain and was used for wood turning and high quality carving

Antonio Stradivari used field maple wood for making some of his famous violins

Its leaves provide food for the caterpillars of the maple pug, mocha, winter, sycamore and small yellow wave moths

In Alsatian folklore, branches of field maple around the house ensured protection against bats

It is popular among bonsai enthusiasts, being easy to grow, with small leaves and good autumn colour

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