

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Get to know your tree:

The sugar maple is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, 5-lobed leaves. Branches and leaves emerge opposite one another. Fall leaf color ranges from yellow to red. Flowers are small and yellow in color. Fruits are “helicopter seeds” - winged samaras that are distributed by the wind. Bark is smooth and grey on younger trees, developing furrows with age.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter sugar maple provides approximately \$13.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 10 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger sugar maple trees, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The sap of the sugar maple tree is sweet, but doesn't have the flavor or color of maple syrup – this results from boiling the sap or allowing it to evaporate and concentrate. It takes 30-50 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup!

The sugar maple is the national tree of Canada, and the leaf of the sugar maple is featured on the Canadian flag!



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Sugar maples grow to heights of 60-75 feet, with a spread of around 40-50 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please consider potential conflicts with solar panels as well! This species does best in well drained, slightly acidic soils. It is susceptible to high salt levels.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

