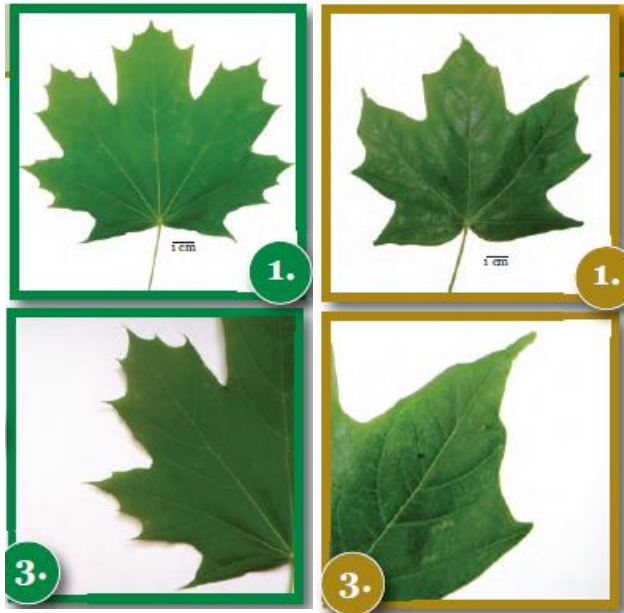




## Leaflet

**Activity sheets** are available online or from the info boxes.

### ❖ Invasive plant: Norway Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)



It is the first tree to turn green in the spring and the last to drop the leaves in the fall, making it easy to recognize in the fall and early spring.

It creates dense shade that very few plants can tolerate. Its shallow root system competes with other plants, and makes the tree prone to wind damage.

Norway maple leaves (left) have 5-7 main veins coming from the base of the leaf and the leaf tips are sharply pointed. Sugar maple





(right) has 3-5 main veins and the points on the leaf are rounded.





**Control:** Seedlings often grow into trees unnoticed along property lines or from between shrubs and other trees. Seedlings can be pulled when young or cut multiple times and/or treated with stump killer. Larger trees can be killed by girdling. Plant any of the native maples instead.



## ❖ What cool fruit and seed pods to find!

	<p style="text-align: center;">Beech tree nut (<i>Fagus sp.</i>)</p> <p>The fruit of the beech tree, the <i>beechnut</i> is found in small burrs that drop from the tree in autumn. It is small, roughly triangular and edible, with a bitter, astringent taste. They have a high enough fat content that they can be pressed for edible oil.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Oak tree acorn (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)</p> <p>The acorn, a nut, is borne in a cup-like structure. Each acorn contains one seed (rarely two or three) and takes 6–24 months to mature, depending on species. Wildlife that consumes acorns as an important part of their diets includes insects, birds and mammals. Acorns were also used as food by people throughout history.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Maple fruit (samara) (<i>Acer sp.</i>)</p> <p>These samaras occur in pairs each containing one seed enclosed in a "nutlet" attached to a flattened wing. They are shaped to spin as they fall and to carry the seeds a considerable distance on the wind. During World War II, the US Army developed an air drop supply carrier that could carry up to 65 pounds of supplies and was based on the maple seed.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Black walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)</p> <p>The hard shell is tightly bound to a thick husk. The husk is best removed when green. Black walnut nuts are shelled commercially in the United States and used for preparing desserts. While the flavor of the kernel is very good, it is difficult to take the walnut "meat" out of the hard shell.</p>

	<p>Chinese scholar tree pods (<i>Sophora japonica</i>)</p> <p>The ornamental yellow-green seed pods are 6 to 8 inches long, and persist well into the winter. They resemble strings of beads. (Tree is in the same family as peas, and beans.)</p>
	<p>Golden rain tree capsules (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)</p> <p>The fruit is a three-lobed inflated papery capsule 1–2 1/4 inches long, containing several hard nut-like seeds about 3/4 inches in diameter. The shape of the fruit resembles Chinese lanterns.</p>
	<p>Amur corktree (<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>) Non-native, invasive</p> <p>Pea sized fruit held in clusters only on female plants. It turns from green to black and persist through the winter. Aromatic when crushed. The oil from the seeds has insecticidal properties and contains many chemicals that are used for medicine.</p>
	<p>Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)</p> <p>The 1–1.5 inch diameter compound fruit is hard, dry, and round. It is composed of 40-60 capsules, each containing one to two small seeds and has a pair of terminal spikes (80-120 spike total). The seeds are about one-quarter of an inch thick, winged, and wind-dispersed. Goldfinches, purple finches, squirrels, and chipmunks eat the seeds of the tree.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Franklin tree (<i>Franklinia alata</i>)</p> <p>Franklinia seed pods develop slowly, taking 12-14 months to mature. Seeds are flattened and they fall out as the pods open on both top and bottom.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Magnolia (<i>Magnolia</i> sp.)</p> <p>Black seeds are covered in red coating and develop in a pine cone-like structure. Squirrels, white-footed mice, turkeys, quails and songbirds digest the seed coating and spread the seeds.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)</p> <p>A bunchgrass of the prairie, its seeds are consumed by birds and small mammals. Also used for nesting material and cover. Larval host for many butterflies.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)</p> <p>The spent flower head is full of small, seed-like fruit that is a food source for many birds. Seeds are ripe when light brown or grayish in color.</p>