



April 30, 2019

Paul McLaughlin  
20 South St.  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Gentlemen:

This is a summary of my interactions with the village concerning four Norway Maples on the border between the sidewalk and street in front of my house, and the damage due to them that needed repair.

June 2013: My front sidewalk is becoming dangerous due to roots pushing the stones up. A friend who lives on Cozine Drive tells me that the village removed a tree for him. It was near the street, about 10 feet from the edge of the road, so I expected that the village would be willing to help with my situation.

I sent a letter to the village requesting removal of four trees and repair of damage done to the sidewalks by the trees. Howard Trout contacted me and told me that the Tree Committee was against removing the trees, as they were healthy, and added to the beauty of the street, but the village would repair the damage to the sidewalks caused by the tree roots. By this time it was late in the year, and I expected that it would happen the following Spring. I heard nothing from Trout or anyone else. I saw nothing about it in minutes of the Village meetings, and I let it slide.

Two or three years ago, I saw the little flags and paint marks on the worst of the sidewalk stones, and thought the village was finally getting around to it. Then I got the notice that the village held me responsible for fixing the problem. I communicated with John Fenton, and you said that the village was looking at options. I never heard anything back, although I did read in the Poughkeepsie Journal that the village was planning some action to repair the sidewalks.

In February of this year, I got a letter, along with a new set of paint and flags, giving me 30 days (in the middle of winter) to fix the sidewalk. I addressed the Town Board meeting in April of this year, and they asked me to document my interactions with the village concerning this affair. I still feel that the village should bear the responsibility for repairs, since the situation was readily apparent long before the village changed its policy and declared that property owners had the sole responsibility for maintaining sidewalks in front of their property, and since it was the town, not me or the former owners who had planted the trees.

Sincerely,

Paul V. McLaughlin

Norway maple is sometimes confused with our native sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and so here are a few distinguishing characteristics that can be used to tell the two apart. Norway maple leaves are usually broader than they are long, while sugar maple leaves are generally longer than wide. Norway maple leaves when broken off at the petiole exude milky white sap where sugar maple has clear watery sap. Norway maple seeds (winged samaras) form in oppositely arranged pairs with a wide spread (180°); sugar maple seeds, and other native maple seeds, are horseshoe shaped where the wings droop at a 45° to 90° angle. Norway maple terminal buds are large, rounded, and blunt, with only 2–3 pairs of scales; sugar maple has long, sharply pointed buds with many scales. Bark of mature Norway maples has tight, furrowed grooves, similar to our native ash, while sugar maple bark is both flattish and smooth when young or platy when older. Norway maple leaves are very distinguishable in the fall since they persist after most native plants have dropped their leaves and because they turn a pale to orange- yellow, in contrast to sugar maple's brilliant oranges and reds.

### Control Options

See the following control guides: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) for Woody Plants](#); or the [Control of Invasive Species by Numbers](#)

### Sources

Swearingen, J., B. Slattery, K. Reshetiloff, and S. Zwicker. 2010. *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, 4th ed. National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, DC. 168pp. Retrieved on September 15, 2011 from <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/acp1.htm>

Canadian Botanical Conservation Network, 2003. *Invasive Tree Species, Acer platanoides*. [www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/invasives/i\\_tree2.html](http://www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/invasives/i_tree2.html)

Dirr, M.A., 1997. *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs, An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. Published by the Timber Press, Portland, Oregon

Mehrhoff, L., 2001. *Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Catalog of Species, Acer platanoides*. [http://www.eddmaps.org/ipanc/ipanespecies/trees/Acer\\_platanoides.htm](http://www.eddmaps.org/ipanc/ipanespecies/trees/Acer_platanoides.htm)

<i>Acer platanoides</i> Norway maple	
Plant Type	Tree
Habitat Type	Forests, field edges
USDA Hardiness Zone	3-7
Rooting Structure	Fibrous shallow
Environmental Impacts	Phytotoxin interrupts mycorrhizal activity. Foliage produces water-soluble antifungal chemicals which may alter the soil-borne mycorrhizae, pathogenic fungi, and decomposer fungi.  Diminishes the quantity of light in the understory.
Wildlife Impacts	Loss of valuable habitat
Leaf arrangement	Alternate
NWI Ranking	UPI
Soil Type	
Soil pH Range	5.2-7.2
Light Requirements	Prefers partial to full sun, shade
Growing Season	
Growth Rate	1-ft per year
Mature Height	90 ft. (30 m)
Life Span	250 years
Reproductive Age	5 years
Flowering Period	April
Flower Type	Monoecious
Pollination	Insects
Seed Set	September
Seed Per Plant	>2,000 per plant
Scarification Required	Yes at 3°C
Cold Stratification	3-4 °C for 90-120 days
Seed Longevity	Typically 1-year, possibly 2
Seed Germination Rate	76%
Seedling Density	170-700/acre
Other Propagules	Suckering
Dispersal Vectors	Wind & water

# Norway maple

## *Acer platanoides*

### Fact Sheet

NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division of Plant Industry, 29 Hazen Dr, Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271-3488

Common Name: Norway maple

New Hampshire Invasive Species Status: Prohibited (Agr 3800)

Latin Name: *Acer platanoides*

Native to: Europe and western Asia



**Description:** Large deciduous tree 60' high by 40' wide. **Bark:** Grayish and somewhat furrowed. **Twigs:** Smooth, olive-brown. **Buds:** Terminal, imbricate, rounded, smooth, greenish-red. **Leaves:** Opposite, 4-7" wide, 5-lobed, dark green to dark red above, lustrous below. **Flowers:** Greenish-yellow, April. **Fruit:** Horizontal samara. **Zone:** 3-7. **Habitat:** Moist, well drained soils, full sun to partial shade. **Spread:** Seeds spread by wind and water. **Comments:** Leaf stalks exude milky white sap. Fast growing, buds break earlier than most native species. Naturalizes in woodlands where it can outcompete native species. **Controls:** Pull or dig seedlings/saplings. Cut large trees and prune suckers when they sprout. **Herbicide:** foliar spray, cut-stem, bark banding, or slash bark with ax and apply to wounds.

### General Considerations

Within the past 30 years or so, Norway maple has spread widely in urban woodlots and forest edge habitats throughout the Northeast and providences of Canada. It prefers the same mesic (moist) soils where sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is often found. For this reason, Norway maple is recognized as invasive species in over 20 states in the Northeast and providences of Canada.

The ecological impacts, loss of natural habitat and reduction of species diversity, is a result of Norway maple's ability to create dense shade from its overlapping broad leaves/canopy. They also negatively affect the natural successional changes of forest habitat by the release of allelopathic chemicals from their shallow rooting system. These chemicals inhibit or prevent the establishment of other plants within the root-zone thus eliminating competition for water, nutrients, and light. These impacts to native vegetation are also amplified by its ability to uptake large amounts of water from the soil. The lack of adequate groundcovers can promote erosion and loss of soil, which has the potential to cause water quality and turbidity impacts to surface waters and wetlands. Furthermore, Norway maple has fewer diseases and pest insects than our native sugar maple, which gives it a competitive edge over sugar maple.