

## “Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs”

by Fred D. Opperman

Maybe I'm a little early by a month or two to describe this month's tree. It brings to my mind pancakes and maple syrup. What else can it be, but, *Acer saccharum* (a'ser sak-kar 'um) — Sugar Maple. That beautiful yellow to red tree that knocks the socks off many other trees when judged for the fall color. This is the tree that thousands of people drive to the Great Smokies or the New England States in the fall to see and take in the colors. For coloring in the fall it is the king, for the sugar maple goes from yellow thru the shades of orange to red.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, 3-6" across, 3-5 lobed pointed, slightly toothed with narrow and deep sinuses.



Buds: Terminal-imbricate, long and sharp pointed. This is the key to identify it in the winter. Axillary buds 1/2 as long as terminal, hairs are found at upper edge of leaf scar and are brown in color.



Size: A landscape size of 60-75 feet is often attained; potential to 100-120' in height; the spread is variable but usually about 2/3's the height although some specimens show a rounded character.

Rate: Slow, possibly medium in youth.

Bark: Young trees develop a smooth, gray-brown bark; with age the bark becomes deeply furrowed, with long irregular thick plates or ridges.

Culture: Transplant balled and burlapped; prefers a well-drained, moderately moist fertile soil.

Landscape Value: One of the best of the larger shade and lawn trees.

This is a tree that needs to be on every golf course and no doubt is.

Credit: “Manual of Woody Landscape Plants”  
by Michael A. Dirr

## “Anticipation”

As the Groundhog has His day,

About the Weather that's on It's way.

Short February will tell the Story,

Of when Spring will flaunt It's Glory.

Anxious Golfers will be pushing hard,

At the sight of green grass in Their yard.

Again We weather Winter's snow and cold,

Patiently awaiting a new Spring to unfold.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

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