

# Tatarian Maple



# Tatarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*)

## General Description

A very tall shrub to small tree native to western Asia. Slightly larger in stature than Amur maple, but with slightly duller foliage and yellowish fall color. Attractive rosy-red seeds. The largest tree in North Dakota is 24 feet tall with a canopy spread of 27 feet.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Black-brown, imbricate.

Bud Size - Small, 1/8 to 1/4 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, broadly-ovate, no prominent lobes as on Amur Maple.

Leaf Margins - Irregularly doubly-serrate.

Leaf Surface - Slightly crinkled leaves, glabrous above, glabrescent beneath.

Leaf Length - 2 to 4 inches.

Leaf Width - 2 to 3 inches.

Leaf Color - Leaves dull to dark green; yellow in autumn.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Borne in 2 to 3 inch long panicles.

Flower Color - Greenish-white.

Fruit Type - Paired samaras (schizocarp).

Fruit Color - Rosy-red, variable in intensity, showy.

Form

Growth Habit - Multi-stemmed, rounded in outline.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium, winter.

Crown Height - 18 to 30 feet.

Crown Width - 15 to 25 feet.

Bark Color - Brown, glabrous, lenticled.

Root System - Somewhat shallow.

## Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adaptable to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 4.5 to 7.5. Reported to have better alkaline tolerance than Amur Maple.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 5.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Prefers moist well-drained soils. Moderately drought tolerant.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

## Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Large shrub or small tree for farmstead windbreaks, and riparian plantings.

Wildlife

Browsed by deer and rabbits. Seeds eaten by squirrels. Fair cover for songbirds.

Agroforestry Products

Wood - Hobby uses and/or firewood.

Medicinal - Extracts of some *Acer* species are used in cancer research and as an astringent.

Urban/Recreational

Useful in home landscapes, borders, and parks.

## Cultivated Varieties

Red Tatarian Maple (*Acer tataricum* 'Rubrum') - Red fall color.

## Related Species

Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)

Hybrid Maple - (*A. ginnala* x *A. tataricum*) - Many Amur Maple plants sold commercially exhibit intermediate characteristics and appear to be hybrids between these two species.

## Pests

No major pest problems. Extracts of various *Acer* species have been toxic to insect pests.