

# CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

## *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet*

### Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)



**Family name:** Maple family (Aceraceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**General:** Deciduous tree of about 40 to 60 and sometimes up to 100 feet tall. The bark of a mature tree is shallowly and regularly furrowed.

**Leaves:** Opposite, large, bright green, palmately lobed with large teeth. When broken, leaf stems exude a *milky white* sap. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Some cultivars have dark red leaves.

**Flowers:** The small, yellow flowers are borne in clusters, appearing from April to early May.

**Fruit:** Flattened, winged samaras that spread nearly 180°. Ripening in May through July.

**Look-alikes:** Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), a native tree, often grows in moist forests, on slopes, and in alluvial areas. When broken, leaf stems exude a *clear* sap. Fall leaves are bright, red-orange, while Norway maple leaves turn yellow. Sugar maple buds have *sharply pointed tips*, while Norway maple buds are rounded. Sugar maple seed are contained in *U-shaped* samaras and *ripen in autumn*.



**Habitat:** Forest, roadside, yard edge, hedgerow, ornamental planting, street planting



**Threats to native habitats:** Norway maple can rapidly shade out native species at all levels of the forest from the forest floor to the canopy. Once established, its seedlings can carpet large areas. This tree thrives in natural and disturbed environments.

**NJ Status:** Norway maple is widespread. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**Commercial Availability:** Norway maple is widely planted as a shade tree in parks, yards, gardens, and along town streets.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=32>

Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 711.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, [www.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org) or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, [www.urwa.org](http://www.urwa.org).

