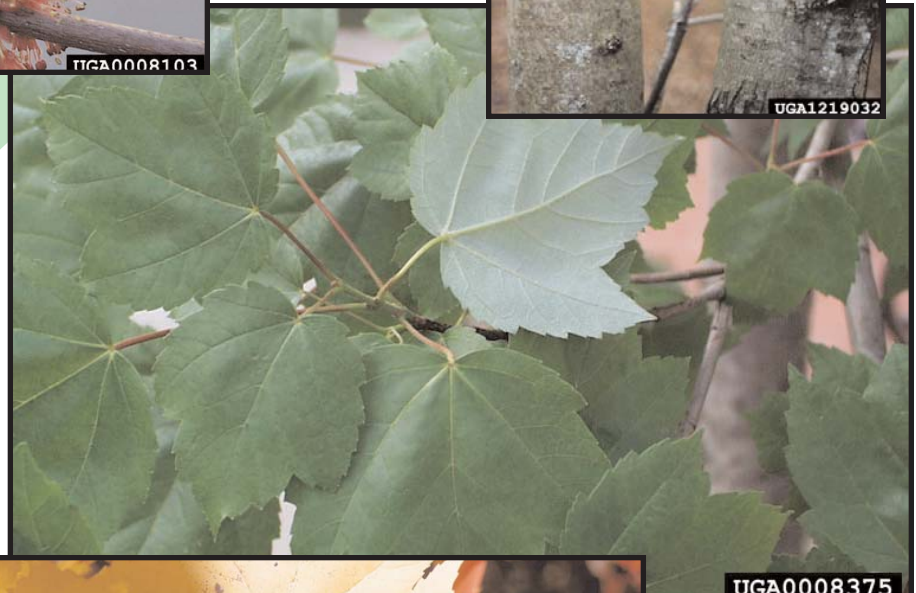


# Red Maple



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# RED MAPLE

*Acer rubrum* L.

FAMILY: Aceraceae

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



**SIZE:** large tree, 60 - 90 feet tall feet



**LEAF:** leaves are light green above and silvery below (yellow, orange or red in fall) with 3 - 5 lobes, a toothed edge and red petiole; deciduous



**FLOWER:** small red flowers in clusters; appear in the spring before the leaves



**FRUIT:** fruit is a winged seed (samara) about 1 inch long and red; usually occur as a pair at the end of a long stem



**BARK:** light gray and smooth on young trees; scaly on older trees



## Where to Look

Red maple is common and abundant throughout the state of Georgia. It occurs in deciduous forests of hills and valleys, bottomland forests along rivers and streams.

### Importance to Humans

It grows fast and adapts well to many sites making it a popular shade tree for parks and yards. It also has beautiful fall color and few pests. Sometimes, it is used for maple syrup.

### Importance to Wildlife

Elk and deer browse young stems of Red Maple.