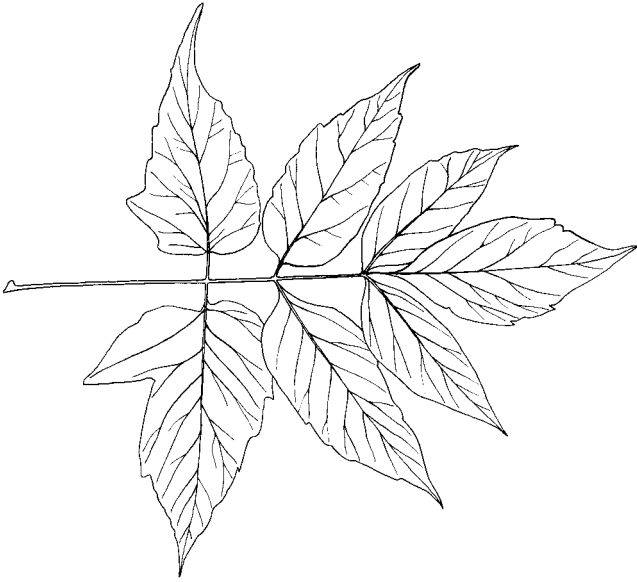


## **BOXELDER**

*Acer negundo* L.

Boxelder or ashleaf maple is apparently not native to

throughout the state and has escaped in localized areas near habitation. It was introduced along the St. John River in Aroostook County. It reaches a maximum height of 50 feet and diameter of about two feet in Maine. It is a short-lived, fast growing, brittle tree, very prone to wind



and ice damage. The **bark** is light gray and smooth on young stems, becoming roughened and shallow-fissured on older trees. The **leaves** are opposite, compound, usually 3-7 leaflets per leaf, rarely 9. The leaflets vary greatly in shape, often lobed and unlobed leaflets are found on the same leaf. Leaflets are occasionally divided into individual blades. The **flowers** open just before the leaves in the spring and are yellow-green. They have no petals. The **fruit** attains mature size in summer, ripening in autumn, consisting of a double winged pair of seeds. Wings are only slightly divergent and the seed body is wrinkled, three times longer than broad. The **twigs** are smooth, rather stout, green or maroon in color, and covered with a white, chalky bloom. The bark yields a pungent odor when bruised. The **wood** is light, soft, creamy white, often tinged with green, weak and close-grained. Occasionally it is used for pulp.