

SILVER MAPLE

Acer saccharinum L.

Silver maple is a common tree found throughout the state except along the coast and is abundant in some localities. It grows largely on sandy banks along streams. It usually grows to a height of 60-80 feet and a diameter of 2-3 feet. The trunk normally separates into 3 or 4 upright, secondary stems, destitute of branches for some distance. The branches are long and slender, often pendulous. The **bark** on young trees is smooth, gray, slightly tinged with red. On old trees it is furrowed, separated into large thin scales, and is reddish brown in color. Twigs are chestnut brown and shiny. The **leaves** are opposite, deeply 5 lobed and the edges are irregular and sharply toothed. The upper surface is pale green, the lower, silvery white. They turn a pale yellow in the fall. The **flowers** are on very short stalks and in clusters. They are greenish yellow or sometimes pinkish, opening early, long before the leaves appear. The **fruit** is paired, winged and ripens in the spring. Frequently, one of the pair does not fully develop. The **twigs** are curved upward at the tip, orange or red-brown above and green below, slender, with a bitter taste and a rank odor when broken. The **wood** is softer than that of the hard maple, close-grained, not durable, and easily worked. It is used to a limited extent for pulp.



CUTLEAF SILVER MAPLE

Acer saccharinum var. *laciniatum* (Carr.) Pax

Cutleaf silver maple varieties are very similar to the silver maple, but have a more deeply-lobed leaf and the branches and twigs are more droopy. These varieties are utilized mainly for ornamental and shade tree planting.