

Acer campestre, field maple or hedge maple

Acer is Latin for maple and *campestre* means "of the fields" (maple of the fields) or dog oak in England. Because this species has been used in dense hedges for nearly a thousand years (or more) it is commonly called hedge maple. The earliest evidence of man-made, hedge-like boundaries in



Europe dates back to 1,500 BCE in Cornwall.

The native range of hedge maple extends from England and Scotland (their only native maple) north to Denmark and south throughout most of the European continent to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, east to Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, and Georgia, in the Caucasus and the mountains of Turkey and Northern Iran. The closely related *Acer miyabei* is found only in eastern Asia.

Hedge maple is a medium sized cold-hardy hardwood tree that will grow broad and dense with many lower branches. It makes a solid visual screen through the growing season and if pruned (hedged), the branching provides a reasonable screen even in winter. It can put on 2-3' of growth in a season and may reach 20' tall. It has an almost oak-like rounded maple leaf with relatively small leaves. The corky bark is deeply furrowed and offers the tree insulation from our winter temperature fluctuations. It has pale

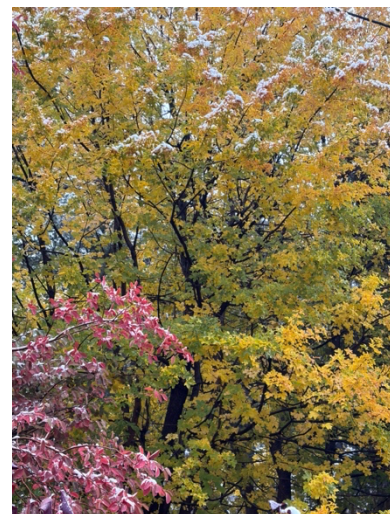
yellow, through deep golden, fall color and is an excellent substitute for quaking aspen gold if aspen's propensity for spreading is unwanted. It is very tolerant of shade but thrives in full sun. It occasionally pops-up from seed in irrigated gardens and is easily transplanted.

Hedge maple grows well in calcareous soils, and it may benefit from an

occasional addition of calcium (lime) in our calcium poor soils. Plant well in a broad hole with ample compost and fertilizer. Water frequently the first few seasons. Mulch well beyond (and not over) the rootball with 4-6" of woody mulch to hold moisture, moderate soil temperatures, and provide humus.

Hedge maple wood has a dense grain and has traditionally been used to make harps. Medieval drinking bowls were made of hedge maple. *Acer campestre* is popular among bonsai enthusiasts.

The photo to the right is the hedge maple in our demonstration landscape at 10678 Donner Pass Road in Truckee. Above Villager Nursery's parking lot. At left is a "dog oak" (hedge maple) in Northchurch, England.



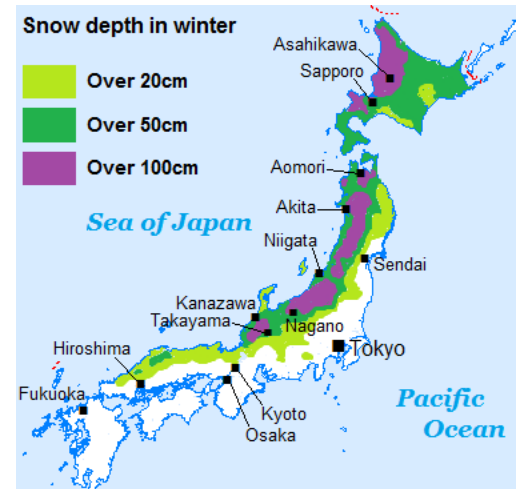


Acer miyabei, Miyabe maple.

Specific epithet is for Professor Kingo Miyabe (1860-1951), a Japanese botanist who discovered this tree growing in the wild on Hokkaido Island in northern Japan. The tree was described by Karl Maximowicz in 1888.

It occurs in few scattered locations, near streams on Hokkaidō and the Tōhoku region in northern Honshū. There are widely cultivated varieties, but it is an endangered species in the wild. The northern coast of the Sea of Japan and in the mountainous regions of the northern part of Honshu and the island

of Hokkaido receive extremely heavy snowfall. Siberian winds gather moisture crossing the Sea of Japan and deposit it on the west-facing mountains where some ski areas can receive up to 23 feet of snow each winter.

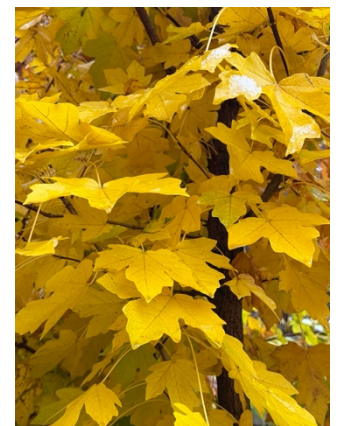


Acer miyabei, Miyabe maple, is a rounded tree that can grow 25-40' tall in milder climates. We expect them to reach 20 to 25' in Truckee.

Excellent tree for small lots. Makes a nice specimen tree for a lawn. Screening or shade tree with golden fall color to contrast red maple, scarlet oak, mountain ash, or serviceberry. Tolerates shade as an understory tree in a woodland garden where it would be a much better choice than Aspen for screening between homes.

Acer miyabei 'Morton' was introduced under the trademarked name of 'State Street'® Maple, as an improved variety. It was selected in 1988 from a parent tree which was planted at the Morton Arboretum in 1929. 'State Street' is noted for its attractive upright rounded habit, symmetrical branching, and rich golden fall color.

JFS in Oregon, who plants 'State Street' in pots for us, says: **"Think of this Morton Arboretum release as a turbo-charged, hardier alternative to *Acer campestre*. Rough corky bark and leaf shape are like Hedge Maple, but its stronger growth rate and ascending branch habit result in a larger mature size. Excellent drought and cold tolerance and clean, pest-free foliage."**



There are nearly 160 species in the genus *Acer* (maple) and the genus is divided into Sections and Series of closely related species.

For example, our western native *Acer circinatum* (vine maple) is in the Section *Palmata* and the Series *Palmata* that includes *A. palmatum* (Japanese), *A. japonicum* (full moon), and *A. pseudosieboldianum* (Korean) maples as they share genetics and many similar traits.

Other Commonly used maples for Sierra gardens:

Section Acer

Series Saccharodendron

- *Acer grandidentatum* – bigtooth maple
- *Acer saccharum* – sugar maple

Section Ginnala

- *Acer ashwilli* - solely known from the Early Oligocene sediments exposed in central Oregon, USA.
- *Acer ginnala* – Amur maple
- *Acer tataricum* – Tatar maple

Section Glabra

- Series Glabra
 - *Acer glabrum* – Douglas maple, Mountain maple

Section Negundo

- Series Negundo
 - *Acer negundo* – box elder, boxelder maple, Manitoba maple

Section Rubra

- *Acer rubrum* – red maple
- *Acer saccharinum* – silver maple

The Acer Section *Platanoidea* and Series *Platanoidea* includes *Acer campestre* and *Acer miyabei* as well as well-known *Acer platanoides*, Norway maple (including the cultivar ‘Princeton Gold’ among others).

Acer campestre, hedge maple, and *Acer miyabei*, Miyabei maple are highlighted here because they are two of our best screening trees. They are both cold-hardy, relatively fast growing, shade tolerant, winter sun tolerant, easy to grow, well-shaped, hedgable (if desired), and they both have excellent clear golden fall color.

Over the decades we have often used hedge maple where clients wanted aspen in partial shade. Aspen do not thrive and often die in even partial shade, but hedge maples thrive in a woodland setting, provide the desired screening, and offer very similar fall color. Miyabei maple is, by all accounts, a tougher, hardier, larger, cousin of hedge maple. We have over-wintered them, even in containers, over the years and they always come through in perfect shape.

Acer miaotaiense, Miaotai maple (*Acer miyabei* ssp. *miaotaiense*), also a rare and endangered species, in China, is Miyabei’s closest relative. *Acer campestre* is considered the next closest relation and there is some evidence that suggests ‘State Street’ may be an accidental hybrid of *A. miyabei* and *A. campestre* from Morton Arboretum.

-eric