



## Invasive Species of the Month for August 2018

### Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

**Origin:** Europe and West Asia

**Interesting Fact:** Norway Maple is still used often in the nursery and landscaping industry, especially the 'Crimson King' cultivar with purple foliage. This is one of the species that will be prohibited with the newly passed Knox County Invasive Plant Ordinance.

**Description:** Norway Maple is a woody perennial tree in the Maple Family that can grow up to 50 ft. tall. It has opposite, simple leaves with 5 lobes, clusters of small yellow flowers that bloom in the spring, and separated paired samaras, almost at a 180° angle.

#### Defining characteristics:

- Opposite, simple leaves with 5 lobes and sharply pointed teeth with a rather long petiole (can be as long as than the leaf itself)
- Clusters of small, yellow flowers in the spring
- Paired samaras with a deep "V" in the middle, almost at a 180° angle
- Bark is thin with many fissures when young, while mature trees develop diamond shaped furrows.
- Leaves exude milky sap when broken.

#### Botanical Terminology:

*Petiole* – The stalk that attaches the leaf to the stem

*Samara* – A winged fruit with papery tissue covering the seed



Left Image: Norway Maple's opposite, simple leaves (image shows 'Crimson King' variety)

Center Image: Bark of young Norway Maple tree

Right Image: Red circle shows milky sap of leaves when broken (seen here at the base of the petiole).



**Habitat:** Woodland edges, interior woods, urban/suburban areas, and disturbed areas



Above Image: A row of Norway Maples planted in Montgomery County.

**Ecological threat:** Norway Maple, like other maple species, produces many wind-dispersed samaras that germinate readily. Norway Maple is very shade tolerant, thus allowing it to invade woodlands and wait for a disturbance to take over. Dense stands of Norway Maples can shade out native vegetation.

**Control Methods:**

- Manual: Pulling can work on small seedlings but care must be taken to ensure all of the roots are removed. Saplings can be removed with a Pullerbear or similar tool. Girdling may be used on large trees.
- Chemical: Large trees cut be cut stump treated with glyphosate\* or basal bark treated with triclopyr\*. Patches of small Norway Maple can be treated with a foliar application of glyphosate or triclopyr plus a non-ionic surfactant\*.

\*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

**References**

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. *Invasive Plants*. Stackpole Books, 2012.

Pennsylvania DCNR. "Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania: Norway Maple." Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.  
[http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_010242.pdf](http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010242.pdf).  
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