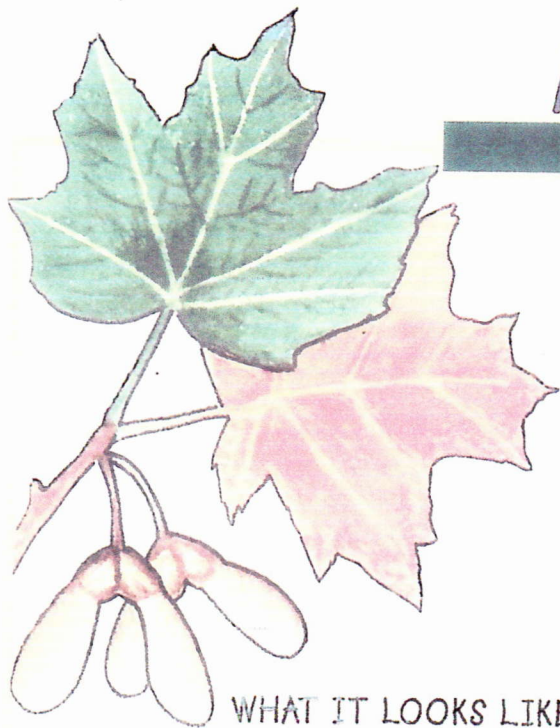


MAPLE



Look in city parks, along streets and in yards for maple trees. They are often planted in these places for shade.

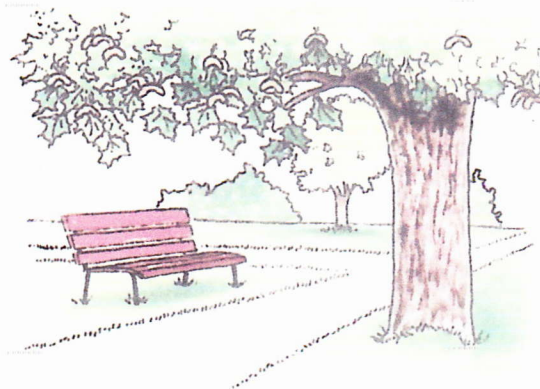
Maple trees grow almost everywhere in the United States.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Maple trees can grow to be more than 80 feet tall. The bark is silvery and smooth on young trees. It is dark gray-brown with flaky grooves on older trees.

The leaves are shaped like a hand and grow up to 1 foot long and wide.

Maple seeds have wings. Each small seed is closed inside a papery wing. The wing is tan and up to 1 inch long. A pair of seeds are joined at the ends. The joined pair twirls to the ground in autumn.



Maple seeds are eaten by grosbeaks, grouse and nuthatches. Mice, squirrels and porcupines also eat these seeds. Deer eat the twigs and leaves.

Watch for changes in weather.