



MAPLE TREE

Acer

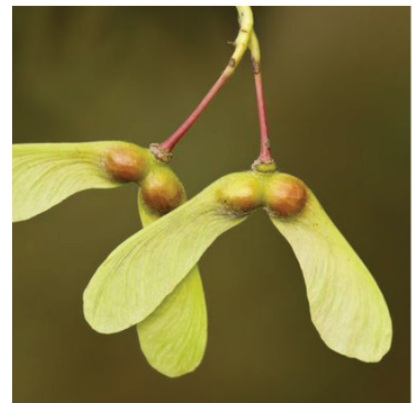
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Everyone loves the maple tree, especially in Canada where maple syrup from Quebec has become world renowned. The maple is seen as a symbol of strength and endurance and the Canadians have adopted it as their national tree, giving it pride of place on their national coat of arms and flag. Its red and golden foliage in autumn is so spectacular that in Japan there is a special word (*momijigari*) for the custom of viewing the changing colours. It is a popular choice for the Japanese art of bonsai.

Children throughout the world love to play with the distinctive winged fruits, the *samara*, which spin like the blades on a helicopter as they fall and carry the seeds far from the tree.

The wood is prized for use in furniture, floors and in musical instruments including violins like a Stradivarius. It is rumored that the Trojan Horse was made of maple wood.

Maple is an extremely popular tree and there are so many species nowadays that collections of maple, known as aceratums, occupy space in many arboreta throughout the world. The largest these is in Boskoop in the Netherlands.



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Ook in andere talen



Also in other languages



Ankaŭ en aliaj lingvoj

