



A maple leaf is on the coat of arms of Canada, and is on the Canadian flag. The maple is a common symbol of strength and endurance and has been chosen as the national tree of many countries including Canada. Maple leaves are traditionally an important part of Canadian Forces military regalia. In the literary world, the word maple was first published in Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Knights Tale" on line 2,065, spelled as "mapul".

### **Commercial uses**

Maples are important as source of syrup and wood. Dried wood is often used for the smoking of food. Charcoal from maples is an integral part of the Lincoln County Process used to make Tennessee Whiskey. They are also cultivated as ornamental plants and have benefits for tourism and agriculture.

### ***Maple syrup***

Further information: [Maple syrup](#)

The Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is tapped for sap, which is then boiled to produce maple syrup or made into maple sugar or maple taffy. It takes about 40 litres (42 US qt) of Sugar maple sap to make a 1 litre (1.1 US qt) of syrup. Syrup can be made from closely related species as well, but their output is inferior.

### ***Timber***

Some of the larger maple species have valuable timber, particularly Sugar maple in North America, and Sycamore maple in Europe. Sugar maple wood — often known as "hard maple" — is the wood of choice for bowling pins, bowling alley lanes, pool cue shafts, and butcher's blocks. Maple wood is also used for the manufacture of wooden baseball bats, though less often than ash or hickory due to the tendency of maple bats to shatter when broken. The maple bat was introduced to Major League Baseball (MLB) in 1998 by Sam Holman of Sam Bats. Today it is the standard maple bat most in use by professional baseball. Maple is also commonly used in archery as the core material in the limbs of a Recurve Bow due to its stiffness and strength.

### ***Tonewood***



Maple is considered a tonewood, or a wood that carries sound waves well, and is used in numerous musical instruments. Maple is harder and has a brighter sound than Mahogany, which is another major tonewood used in instrument manufacture.

The back, sides, and neck of most violins, violas, cellos, and double basses are made from maple.

Electric guitar necks are commonly made from maple, having a brighter sound than rosewood. The necks of the Fender Stratocaster and Telecaster were originally an entirely maple one piece neck, but later were also available with rosewood fingerboards. Les Paul desired an all maple guitar, but due to the weight of maple, only the tops of Gibson's Les Paul guitars are made from carved maple, often using quilted or flamed maple tops. Due to its weight, very few solid body guitars are made entirely from maple, but many guitars have maple necks, tops or veneers.

Maple is also often used to make bassoons and sometimes for other woodwind instruments.

Many drums are made from maple. From the 70s to the 90s, maple drum kits were a vast majority of all drum kits made, but in recent years, Birch has become popular for drums once again. Some of the best drum-building companies use maple extensively throughout their mid-pro range. Maple drums are favored for their bright resonant sound.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple>





Birch trees are a landscaper's prize specimen. In addition to possessing a number of attractive qualities, including colored bark, graceful branches, manageable height and gorgeous fall foliage, Birch trees are fairly easy to maintain and their wood can be sold commercially. The challenge of maximizing the tree's value is finding the type that best suits your property.

The common name "birch" is derived from an old Germanic root, *birka*, with the Proto-Indo-European root *\*bherag*, "white, bright; to shine." The Proto-Germanic rune *berkanan* is named after the birch. The generic name *Betula* is from Latin.

The bark of all birches is characteristically marked with long, horizontal lenticels, and often separates into thin, papery plates, especially upon the paper birch. It is resistant to decay, due to the resinous oil it contains. Its decided color gives the common names gray, white, black, silver and yellow birch to different species.

Birches are regarded as pioneer species, rapidly colonising open ground especially in secondary successional sequences following a disturbance or fire. Birches are early tree species to establish in primary successions, and can become a threat to heathland if the seedlings and saplings are not suppressed by grazing or periodic burning. In the British Isles, there is some difference between the environments of *Betula pendula* and *Betula pubescens*, and some hybridization, though both are "opportunists in steady-state woodland systems". Birch foliage is used as a food plant by the larvae of a large number of lepidopteran (butterflies and moths) species.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birch>

<http://www.2020site.org/trees/birch.html>



*Larix laricina*, commonly known as the **tamarack**, **mackmatack** or **American larch**, is a species of larch native to Canada, from eastern Yukon and Inuvik, Northwest Territories east to Newfoundland, and also south into the northeastern United States from Minnesota to Cranesville Swamp, Maryland; there is also a disjunct population in central Alaska. The word *tamarack* is the Algonquian name for the species and means "wood used for snowshoes".

Key characteristics:

- The needles are normally borne on a short shoot in groups of 10–20 needles.
- The larch is deciduous and the needles turn yellow in autumn.
- The seed cones are small, less than 2 cm (0.8 in) long, with lustrous brown scales.
- Larch are commonly found in swamps, bogs, and other low-land areas.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix\\_laricina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix_laricina)