



ID #: 509

Owner: USFW—Little River National Wildlife Refuge

Circumference: 75 inches

Height: 85 feet

Average Crown Spread: 30 feet

Total Points: 167.5



## SUGAR MAPLE (*ACER SACCHARUM*)



Best known for its bright fall foliage and maple syrup, the sugar maple is a favorite shade tree. Principal commercial uses of sugar maple and other hard maples elsewhere include hardwood lumber, furniture, flooring, boxes and crates, shoe lasts, handles woodenware and novelties, spools and bobbins, truck and railroad car parts, and bowling pins and alleys. Also veneer, railroad crossties, charcoal, and pulpwood.

**Large tree** 80 feet high and 2 feet in diameter, with spreading dense crown. **Twigs** slender, reddish brown, hairless. **Buds** small, blunt, dark brown, with several paired scales.

**Leaves** paired or opposite, long-stalked, rounded, 2—4.5 inches long and wide, with 5 shallow blunt or short-pointed lobes, edges coarsely toothed, with 5 main veins from notched base, dark green above, beneath paler, whitish, and often hairy on veins turning yellow and red in autumn.

**Flowers** many in drooping clusters on long slender hairy stalks in early spring with leaves, 3/16 inches long, with bell-shaped 5-lobed greenish yellow calyx, mostly male and female.

**Fruits** paired brown keys (samaras), forking, about 1 inch long including long wing, 1-seeded, maturing in summer or autumn.

**Bark** light gray, smoothish, becoming thick, rough, and furrowed.

**Wood** light pinkish brown with whitish sapwood, diffuse porous, fine-textured, heavy, lustrous, hard, strong.