**Acer triflorum**: Three-Flowered Maple

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**Introduction**

Three-flowered maple slowly grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet with an equal width, and the dense, rounded canopy casting dense shade below. The 1.5- to 3.5-inch-long, compound leaves are slightly hairy and turn attractive shades of orange and red in the fall before dropping. True to its name, three-flowered maple produces three greenish-yellow flowers clustered together in springtime and these are followed by 1- to 1.5-inch-long winged seeds, which persist on the tree. The red/brown bark is quite attractive and peels off in long, thin strips.

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**General Information**

- **Scientific name**: Acer triflorum
- **Pronunciation**: AY-ser try-FLOR-um
- **Common name(s)**: Three-flowered maple
- **Family**: Aceraceae
- **USDA hardiness zones**: 3B through 7B (Fig. 2)
- **Origin**: not native to North America
- **Invasive potential**: little invasive potential
- **Uses**: container or planter; trained as a standard; street without sidewalk; deck or patio; screen; specimen; tree lawn 3–4 feet wide; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft. wide
- **Availability**: not native to North America

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**Figure 1. Young Acer triflorum**: Three-Flowered Maple

**Figure 2. Range**
**Description**

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet  
**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical  
**Crown shape:** round, spreading  
**Crown density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** slow  
**Texture:** fine

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)  
**Leaf type:** trifoliate, odd-pinnately compound  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** oblong, lanceolate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** orange, yellow, red  
**Fall characteristic:** showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** green, yellow  
**Flower characteristics:** not showy

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated  
**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches  
**Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** green, tan  
**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; very showy; can be trained to one trunk; thorns  
**Pruning requirement:** little required  
**Breakage:** resistant  
**Current year twig color:** brown  
**Current year twig thickness:** thin, medium  
**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** partial sun or partial shade, shade tolerant  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

**Roots:** not a problem  
**Winter interest:** yes  
**Outstanding tree:** yes  
**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible  
**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

**Use and Management**

This handsome tree is well suited for use as a specimen planted in the lawn or in a low ground cover. The showy bark and fine texture combine to generate a striking display during the growing season. It provides interest in the winter when branches are bare to show the darkened bark, which contrasts nicely against snow.

Three-flowered maple grows best in full sun or partial shade on well drained soil. Due to its shallow root system, three-flowered maple will not tolerate soil compaction. It does not tolerate soil that remains wet for periods of time.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.