
References

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Have You Been Listening?

How can you tell the difference between the Crimson King and the Sugar Maple?

- A. Venation
- B. Petiole Scars
- C. Sap
- D. Bark

Acer platanoides "Crimson King"



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Plant Identification Project

History, Geographical Range, Size



The *Acer platanoides* (Norway Maple) otherwise known as the “Crimson King,” for its beautiful colors is not native to North America. It is a type of Maple, or *Acer*, that came to Philadelphia from Europe in 1792 as an ornamental tree for the streets. It can be differentiated from its counterpart the Sugar Maple by the milky sap found in its petioles. The Crimson King can be found in parts of Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Southwest Asia, and North America. It can reach a total height of thirty-five to fifty feet (depending on environment,) and a spread of twenty-five to forty feet.

Characteristics of Leaves, Stems, Flowers and Fruit

The leaves of the Crimson King are opposite whorled, simple, lobed, incised, palmate, deciduous, and yellow purple and red. The stems don't droop but when broken leak a milky sap. The flowers are green. The fruit is either brown or green and elongated. They are usually one to three inches long in length and attract birds.

Susceptibility to Diseases and Pests

Crimson King trees suffer from three primary diseases. Verticillium Wilt, which causes wilting and death of branches is one of the three primary diseases these trees face. It causes wilting and death of branches, severely affected trees probably won't survive. In order to save lightly affected ones you have to fertilize with a high nitrogen fertilizer. The second primary disease is called Girdling Roots, in which the roots of the tree grow around it, choking it, instead of outward. The only way to save the tree from this is to remove a part of the roots and follow up with fertilizer and water. The last primary disease is called Leaf Scorch, which only happens in periods of high temperature and strong winds. This is basically the tree being burnt from weathering. The only way to cure this ailment is through watering. The tree can become infested with Aphids, scales, whiteflies, earwigs, rust, and powdery mildew. It can also suffer from borers.

Plant Host?

While the Crimson King isn't host to any specific beautiful animal exactly it is certainly known for its gorgeously exquisite colors that change depending on the season. Its leaves are Purple-Green in the summer, Dark Maroon/Bronze in fall, and Maroon/Yellow in spring.

Fun Facts!

Because of the dense shade the tree provides it is difficult to grow grass underneath. The Crimson King is planted primarily for its looks. It's considered an “invasive” species in North America. It is a more common tree these days than fifty years ago.

