

# 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

## TREE INFO CARD

### Silver Maple

*(Acer saccharinum)*

#### Get to know your tree:

The silver maple is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, 5-lobed leaves with silvery-white undersides. The leaves are deeply lobed and have large teeth, providing a “feathery” appearance. Branches and leaves emerge opposite one another. Fall leaf color is typically a pale yellow. Flowers are small and greenish-yellow or red in color. Fruits are “helicopter seeds” - winged samaras that are distributed by the wind. Bark is smooth and pale grey on younger trees, and becomes shaggy with age.

#### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter silver maple provides approximately \$27.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 11 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see benefits provided by larger silver maples, visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



### Fun facts about your tree:

When leaves begin to appear in the spring, the sap from maple trees is no longer usable for syrup. Silver maples can be used for syrup, but since they leaf out earlier than sugar maples, they're impractical for large-scale production.

The silver maple and red maple can hybridize naturally, resulting in a maple with intermediate characteristics, known as a Freeman maple.



### Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Silver maples grow to heights of 75-100 feet, with a spread of around 40-50 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please consider potential conflicts with solar panels as well! The roots of this species may damage sidewalks and driveways. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arborday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

### Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

