

The rock maple of which the hard maple, curly and bird's-eye maple are varieties, is found in great abundance throughout the province. It is highly saccharined. This maple is one of the most valuable of the indigenous trees of North America. The soils most suitable for its healthy growth are the alluvial meadow lands along the margins of rivers, and on the gentle slope of hills. It is seldom found growing thriftily either in swamps or on top of high elevations. The maple when well seasoned, is capable of resisting great pressure and when not exposed to moisture is very durable. The most important uses to which it is applied are the manufacture of furniture and the making of sugar. The beautiful varieties which its surface presents when dressed by the cabinet maker, render it highly valuable to him; when polished it has a satin-like surface. The curls, dots and bird's-eyes in it render it superior in beauty to mahogany and many other expensive woods now in general use. The sap of the rock maple is used in the manufacture of maple sugar, and when properly manufactured, this sugar is very delicious and commands a high price. Land upon which rock maple grows is also valuable for agricultural purposes, especially for hay, the soil being generally of a damp, rich black color and highly alluvial.

The white maple grows generally on flat, swampy land, although it is sometimes found in dry soils, but seldom of a large size. In situations favorable to its growth it attains a greater height than the rock maple, although it is not so large in diameter. The wood is very light, elastic and flexible, yet it possesses great strength and is largely employed in the manufacture of agricultural implements. The bark was formerly used in the manufacture of ink and when mixed with copper-as a good black dye was produced.