

comes furrowed, rough, easily cracks in scales and turns a brown color. Light gray lichens are often seen clinging to the bark of a red maple whose home is in a swamp.

The fruit of the Red Maple is ripe in September and is the smallest and most delicate of all maples. It is red, and found hanging in pairs from stems two or three inches long. The wings of the "keys" slightly diverge and are about one inch long.

The wood is hard and of a light color, having a reddish tint. Its grain is fine and compact and when the fibers are in wavy lines or "curled" it is highly prized, for, as the wood takes a fine polish, it is greatly valued in cabinet work.

The White Maple, or Silver Maple, is a favorite shade tree, as it is most ornamental. This large, stately tree, one of the most grateful of the maples, is found from the Atlantic to the Indian Territory. Its long, slender branches spring from the trunk in an upward, rather than outward, direction at first. They spread at the top, then slightly droop.

In old trees the bark of the trunk and large limbs is rough and furrowed. The color is a dark granite gray inclining to brown. The smaller branches are smooth and white, the young shoots are of a light green.

The leaves are among the most beautiful of our shade trees, the upper surface being a bright green while the under surface is light, almost a silvery white. In these autumn days the leaves show varied colors of orange, scarlet, and a purplish crimson. The leaves, on long, slender stems, have five divisions, separated by

sharp notches and tapering to a point. The edge is prettily and finely toothed.

In early summer the fruit ripens and now, in September, we find many a wayside dotted with the new seedling trees. The fruit is supplied with long, stiff wings, arranged in pairs and set at right angles.

The wood is soft, white, and light. It is not durable and so not highly prized.

There is no grander maple than the Rock Maple, or Sugar Maple tree. This grows in some localities over one hundred feet high, is erect and exceptionally symmetrical. In the region of the Great Lakes it attains its finest development.

Its lower branches, firm and stiff, lack the grace of the White Maple's more slender branches. The bark of the young tree is an ash gray, light colored and smooth, but when old it becomes dark, scaly, rough and deeply furrowed; and then assumes a gray brown. Greenish lichens are often seen in patches upon the trunks of old trees in the forests.

The leaf of the Rock Maple is easily distinguished from the others as it has no tiny saw teeth on the margin. This long-stemmed leaf has five divisions, not deeply cut, and the notches between the lobes are curved. During these fall days the foliage on many of the Rock Maples is a clear straw yellow, on others it is a light red with orange tints. This gorgeous coloring depends upon different conditions of temperature and moisture. In England there is no brilliant foliage to compare with that in the United States and Canada.