

CANADIAN MAPLES

TEN VARIETIES IN CANADA—CAREFUL DESCRIPTION WRITTEN FOR THE JOURNAL

BY

W. T. MACO'N

HORTICULTURIST CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA, O. T.

IF THERE is one Canadian tree which is known to young and old it is the maple. That patriotic song, "The Maple Leaf Forever," is one of the first which the little children learn to sing at school; and often it is sung in the refreshing shade of the maples on a hot June day, when the value of the maple as an ornamental shade tree is pointed out to the scholars by the teacher. Then, the maple sugar and syrup in the early spring impress the maple on the minds of Canadian youth more than perhaps anything else. Those of maturer years sing the same song, enjoy the same shade, and many also the sweets of the sugar maple. The latter also admire the form and foliage of the trees and the economical value of the wood for furniture and other purposes. The emblem of Canada is thus well and favorably known to young and old.

While almost everyone, from the little child upward, is familiar with the maple, comparatively few, especially in our cities and towns, can distinguish the common species from each other, and still fewer know all the species which are to be found in Canada. It is in the hope of making the different species better known that these notes are written.

There are ten native species of maples in Canada, all of which are perfectly hardy at Ottawa, with the exception of the Large-Leaved Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) which kills outright, and the Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) which, although it becomes

hardier from year to year, cannot be called more than half-hardy.

Six of the species grow to be large or medium sized trees, while four are but small trees or shrubs.

The technical descriptions given in this article are taken from the "Cyclopædia of American Horticulture," as they are simpler and more concise than those found in botanies; but the nomenclature is principally that used in the "Catalogue of Canadian Plants" (Macoun), which is most familiar to readers of the "Canadian Horticulturist." These changes have been made in the names, but both old and new are given. The illustrations are from photographs kindly furnished by Mr. F. T. Shutt.

1. **Sugar or Rock Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*, Wang; *Acer saccharum*, Marsh).—"Large tree, 120 feet, with bark; leaves 3-5 lobed, cordate, 3-6 inches long, with narrow and deep sinuses; lobes acuminate, sparingly dentate, usually glaucous and glabrous beneath; fruit with little spreading wings." It is found from Nova Scotia to the western end of Lake Superior, and in scattered places to the Lake of the Woods and northward to Lake St. John, Lake Temiscamingue, and to the Long Portage on the Michipicotin River, north of Lake Superior. It is the most valuable and one of the most beautiful of all Canadian maples. It is one of our best timber trees, the wood being highly esteemed for many purposes. Being hard and tough, it is used where strength is required, as for axles of wagons, handles of