

recognize it by its reddish branches, the twigs of young trees being a bright dark red. The head of the tree is usually rounded and somewhat low.

The leaves are thick and make a dense shade, although variable in size. A close examination of the leaf shows there are three distinct divisions, sometimes five, although the lower lobes near the stem are very small. The hollows between the lobes are pointed and extend about one-third of the distance to the base of the leaf. The margin of the leaf consists of tiny saw teeth.

In August and early September the leaves are a bright deep red, and by the first of November the leaves have fallen. Often during the summer days we see a branch of brilliant scarlet among the green branches—evidently the flow of sap in that branch is arrested, an insect may have stung the stem, a worm may be gnawing at the pith, or some unseen living creature may be the cause of this brightness among the surrounding green.

The bark of the Red Maple is smooth and of a warm gray color when young, but in old trees it becomes 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 fibres 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.

WHITE MAPLE.

The white maple or silver maple, is a favorite shade tree, as it is most ornamental. This large, stately tree, one of the most graceful 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 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 wide angles.

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

ROCK MAPLE.

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