Norway Maple
*Acer platanoides*

Tree

Leaves opposite, with 5 to 7 lobes, 4 – 7" wide, dark green. Petiole exudes white sap when detached from stem. Leaves hold late and turn attractive yellow in October.

Stem has solid white pith; large bud at tip that bleeds white sap if cut. Bark grayish black, smoother when young, becoming more ridged & shallowly grooved.

Flowers yellowish-green, April – May before leaves appear; somewhat showy. Fruits green *samaras at nearly 180˚ angle, 1.5 – 2"; mature September, turn yellow, then brown.

**Similar native plants:** Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), with dark green leaves with 3 – 5 lobes, 3 – 6" wide, turning yellow/orange/red in fall; bark gray-brown that becomes deeply furrowed; *samaras in U-shape*. White Ash (*Fraxinus americanus*) has similar bark, but compound leaf & smaller terminal bud.

Where found: Disturbed open areas, roadsides, woodlands & edges, gardens.

**Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) Best Control Practices:**

First, read the FAQs (see last page) to guide your decisions on How, When, Why, and What control efforts. Then, proceed with the following:

- Pull/grub/dig/weed-wrench anytime the soil is wet. Will re-sprout.
- For larger trees, cut tree down, or cut overlapping gashes into bark anytime except spring or early summer, and paint cut surface with 25-40% triclopyr, if permitted. Monitor. Repeat on re-sprouts in subsequent years.

**Source:**

[Maine Natural Areas Program, Invasive Plant Fact Sheet, Norway Maple](#)
FAQs: To eliminate or control invasive plants in Harpswell?

Choosing a control strategy
Choosing a control strategy requires careful thought as to the size and severity of the infestation and its proximity to water and other natural resources. The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) urges land owners to use mechanical (as opposed to chemical) controls whenever possible. Herbicide application within 25 feet of the water is not allowed in Harpswell. Check the Town of Harpswell’s Pesticide Ordinance.

Why control invasive plants?
Infestations of invasive plants damage the lands and waters that native plants and animals need to survive. They out-compete and displace native plant species. Livestock avoid grazing on many invasives (thistles/euphorbia, black swallow-wort), encouraging spread. Invasive seeds may also contaminate hay. Some invasives shelter mice, so increase the numbers of ticks (barberries), and others yield poisonous chemicals (euphorbia, black swallow-wort) that can affect human and animal health. Some invasive roots exude chemicals that poison neighboring plants (knapweed, black swallow-wort).

When is the best time to control invasive plants?
There isn’t one season that works perfectly for all invasives. When trying to prevent invasives from entering the seed-spreading period, manually attack them any time you can. But, when chemicals are needed, leaf-spraying must be done on green leaves, while the cut-and-paint stem applications are only effective during the late season, not when sap is actively flowing. Be sure to follow the guidelines advised on HIPP’s website to time your efforts.

Why avoid chemical herbicides?
The most commonly-used herbicides for invasive plant control are glyphosate (Roundup) and Triclopyr (Garlon 4 and 3A). Glyphosate is known to be mildly toxic to bees, which are already threatened. Triclopyr is slightly toxic to birds, fish, and aquatic invertebrates, and can cause severe eye damage.

Why use chemicals?
Sometimes, cautiously using herbicides is less disturbing to the environment than other possible control methods. At other times, the plant infestation is too large or dense to realistically remove mechanically. If chemicals are needed, follow professional advice for when and how much chemical to use. Using chemicals that are mixed too strongly can damage the visible leaves while never seeping into the root structure to kill the plant.

When using chemicals why not just use Roundup (or Triclopyr) for all the invasives?
Neither Roundup nor Triclopyr works reliably for every invasive plant. Following the guidelines advised on HIPP’s website will help you choose the right herbicide for the job, save you money, and minimize environmental damage.

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership Plant Fact Sheets
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