



## black maple

*Acer nigrum*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta  
Class:  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

The black maple is a deciduous tree that grows to 65 feet tall with a diameter up to two and one-half feet. Its bark is dark brown or black with ridges and scales. The simple leaves are arranged oppositely on the stem and are about six inches long and nearly that wide. Each leaf has three to five lobes. The leafstalk may be five inches long. The leaves turn yellow in the fall. Male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are separate, but sometimes they are found on the same tree. The fruits are borne in pairs and consist of a wing with a seed at the base. The fruit is red-brown to green, about one inch long.

### BEHAVIORS

The black maple may be found in the northern two-thirds of Illinois. It grows in rich woodlands. This tree flowers from May through June with the flowers appearing as the leaves begin to unfold. Its heavy, brown wood is used to make furniture and cabinets.

### HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: northern 2/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter Resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.