



Boxelder (Maple)

Acer negundo L.

Location: It is found from Alberta, Canada, to the southern Rocky Mountains to New York to Florida. The boxelder commonly grows from the upper Coastal Plain and westward in NC.

Bark: The bark has marrow-brown, rounded, interlocking ridges. The bark is similar to the bark of an ash tree.

Leaves: The leaves are opposite each other on the stem (unlike other maples) and have three to seven (sometimes nine) leaflets which vary in size and shape. They have coarse, serrated edges and may have one to two lobes.

Fruit: The fruit is similar to that of the red maple, but the wings are nearly twice as long.

Wood Type: Soft hardwood. It is close-grained and creamy white. It is light, soft, and weak. The branches are brittle and break easily.

Mature Height: 35 to 50 feet

Mature Diameter: 2 to 3 feet

Uses: Cut for rough lumber, turnery (products made on the lathe), and pulp for paper-making

Reference: Holmes, J. S., & Holmes, J. S. (2015). *Common forest trees of North Carolina: A pocket manual*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Forest Service.