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## Red maple *Acer rubrum*



Medium to large tree, up to 30 m tall. Leaves opposite, deciduous, doubly serrate, up to 15 cm long, each with principal veins palmate, three to five sharp lobes and base cordate. Flower opening prior to appearance of leaves in spring. Male and female flowers borne in different clusters usually on the same tree or rarely on different ones. Mature fruit, a red winged samara produced in pairs. Occurs throughout the South; most common in swamps, along streams, or in rich woods. In open, disturbed sites, almost pure stands of red maple may occur.

### Toxicity

The wilted leaves of this plant contain an unknown compound, which is believed to be an oxidant. Cattle and horses have been poisoned when wilted leaves were ingested.

### Symptoms

Weakness, rapid heartbeat and respiration, depression, icterus, cyanosis, and brownish discoloration of blood and urine are the major symptoms.

### Treatment

Treat symptoms by providing fluids and oxygen. Use methylene blue in the early stages of the disease.