



*Flowers of Red Maple appearing in March.*

## RED MAPLE

*Acer rubrum* L.

The Maple Family is small and includes only two genera. Maples (genus *Acer*) occur throughout the northern hemisphere and a smaller genus occurs in China. The Family is important for lumber, maple syrup, and for lawn specimens. This medium-sized tree occurs throughout our area but is most abundant in moist-wet woods and along streams, rivers, and the reservoirs. Large stands often grow in successional fields, especially in river and creek bottom-lands. The dark-red flowers appear in clusters long before the leaves and are very conspicuous in early spring. Winged fruits (called samaras) also are reddish and appear in spring as well. The foliage is orange to red in autumn and adds much color to the landscape. Other common maples in the area include Sugar (*Acer saccharum*), Silver or Water (*Acer saccharinum*), and Box-Elder (*Acer negundo*). The latter is our only maple species with compound leaves (**Aceraceae**, the Maple Family).

*Fruits (samaras) of Red Maple appearing in April.*

