



Bigleaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum

Characteristics

Large deciduous tree often with multiple stemmed trunk. 30-95 feet tall and 3-5 feet in diameter at maturity; branch spread up to 50 feet. Leaves opposite and large 3-5 lobed, palmate, 6-15 inches across; darker green above, lighter green below, turning yellow in fall. Bark gray brown with narrow furrows as tree matures. Older bark often completely covered with lichens and moss.

Flowers/Fruit

Small greenish yellow flowers in drooping clusters during early spring; appearing just before or with new leaves. Clusters of golden brown paired winged seeds form in summer and disperse flying helicopter style in fall.

Habitat Value

Provides shelter, food, and nesting areas for Black-capped Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Bushtits. Nectar attracts Swallowtail Butterflies and bees. Mule Deer browse on new leaves.

Home Garden Applications

Broad-topped dense shade tree too large for a small garden or a street tree. Tends to drop large limbs so should not be planted near structures. Roots will invade and tend to clog pipes so should not be planted near sewer, septic, or water lines.