

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Rocky Mountain Maple (*Acer glabrum*)

Distribution

Douglas Maple (Rocky Mountain Maple) can be found from Alaska south to Northern California. It occurs from the coastal areas of that region, east to Idaho.

Growth Habit

Douglas Maple grows as a small deciduous tree or large or upright shrub. It can grow to 30 feet tall, and often with an upright growth habit. It is usually larger and more upright than Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), but smaller than Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*).

Adaptability

Douglas Maple is adapted to grow in a wide variety of sites. It occurs in moist lowland sites to dry upland areas. It can be found growing in moderate shade as an understory species, or on very sunny exposed ridges.

Comments

- *Acer glabrum* has 2 common names associated with it. It is commonly referred to as 'Douglas Maple' or 'Rocky Mountain Maple'.
- It can be used in many of the same areas as the more common Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*). The most notable exception would be wetter, poorly drained sites, where Vine Maple would be more suitable.
- Douglas Maple has a faster and more upright growth habit than Vine Maple, making it a more suitable species for shading out competing vegetation.
- Its fall leaf color can be as brilliant as any maple, and its glossy reddish bark is most notably attractive in winter.

