**Acer campestre - Hedge Maple (Aceraceae)**

*Acer campestre* is a slow-growing, medium-sized shade tree for lawn or street. It can also be a large shrub used in hedges. Hedge Maple is rounded, dense of foliage, low-branching, and adaptable to alkaline and compacted soils.

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### FEATURES

#### Form

- Small- to medium-sized shade tree, or large shrub
- Also found as a limbed up, small- to medium-sized tree for the residential landscape
- Slowly maturing to 30' tall x 30' wide under optimum conditions, but often half that size in urban situations, or even less if sheared into hedge form
- Upright oval growth habit in youth, quickly becoming rounded and spreading with age
- Slow growth rate

#### Culture

- Full sun to partial sun
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun, but tolerates urban conditions (dry soils, compacted soils, alkaline soils, heat, and drought) much better than most Maples
- Few disease or pest problems
- Limited availability in either single-trunked or multi-trunked tree form, and in shrub form

#### Foliage

- Opposite arrangement, dark green, and densely arranged along the twigs, about 3” long and wide, with palmate venation, and exuding a milky sap when the petiole is cut
- The leaf blade is 5-lobed; the basal 2 lobes much smaller than the upper 3, and each of the upper lobes incised and usually rounded, but not serrated
- Autumn color is yellow to yellowish-green; not striking

#### Flowers

- Green inflorescences in early May are noticeable but ornamentally insignificant

#### Fruits

- 2 small joined green samaras per stalk, having widely divergent and prominent wings, in pendulous clusters from the stems and maturing as brown fruits in Oct.

#### Twigs

- Brown stems with gray buds
- Some selections have prominent corky or "winged" twigs

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### Trunk

- Light brown to gray branches may have a slight degree of striation on some specimens
- Trunks becoming light gray and fissured at maturity

### USAGE

#### Function

- Small tree or large shrub, planted for shade, specimen, hedge, or street tree use

#### Texture

- Medium texture in foliage and when bare
- Thick density in foliage and when bare

#### Assets

- Urban tolerant
- Low mature height for a shade tree (good for under power lines)
- Dense summer shade
- Of the many Maples: one that is particularly adaptable (tolerant of acidic, neutral, or alkaline soil pH)

#### Liabilities

- Shallow root system can surface with age
- Usually has poor autumn color
- Slow growth rate

#### Habitat

- Zones 4 to 8
- Native to Europe, Near East, and Africa

### SELECTIONS

#### Alternates

- Good small- to medium-sized street trees (*Crataegus x lavallei*, *Koelreuteria paniculata*, *Malus 'Red Baron*', *Tilia cordata 'Greenspire*', etc.)

#### Cultivars / Variants / Related Species

- *Acer campestre* Queen Elizabeth™ (also known as 'Evelyn') - A more vigorous form, having more angled branching (45 degree branch angles, upright) resulting in a more vase-like habit, and darker, larger foliage