



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Rocky mountain maple, Mountain maple, Douglas maple
Scientific Name: *Acer glabrum*
Plant Family: Aceraceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: This plant may be found in variable form as a shrub 1.5 to 2 m (5 to 7 ft) tall or as a tree 6 to 10 m (20 to 33 ft) tall, with a short trunk and slender upright branches.

Leaves: Leaves are a shiny dark green on the topside, paler or whitish on the underside, with a reddish stem. They are usually oval-shaped with a double-toothed edge, occurring in clumps of 3-5. Sometimes they are more lance-shaped and occurring in clumps of 3.

Flowers: small greenish-yellow clusters on drooping stalks

Bark: thin, tight, and smooth; gray or brown

Habitat: Rocky mountain maple grows at moist but well-drained seepage sites, mostly in rocky areas, along streambanks, moist slopes, canyons, and ravines, sometimes dry ridges, at low to middle elevations and moist sites in high mountains.

Bloom time: Mid-spring to summer (April-July), depending on location

Information sources:

USDA Plants Database (plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ACGL)
Virginia Tech Forestry Department Dendrology Database (www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=161)

Did you know? "Rocky Mountain maple is a highly valued big game browse species. Moose, elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer to varying degrees throughout the year eat its leaves and twigs, but it is especially important as a winter food source."

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center & the Biota of North America Program



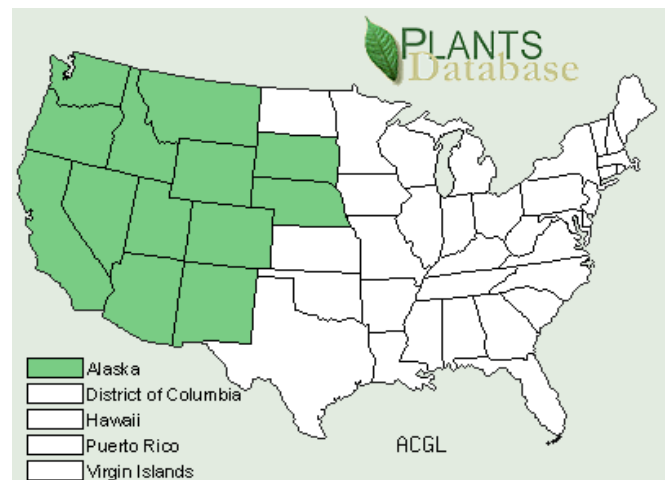
Photograph courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Department @ Virginia Tech Dendrology Database



Photograph by Thayne Tuason @ Central Washington Native Plants (www.cwmp.org)

Phenological observation:
Budburst/First Leaf, First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)