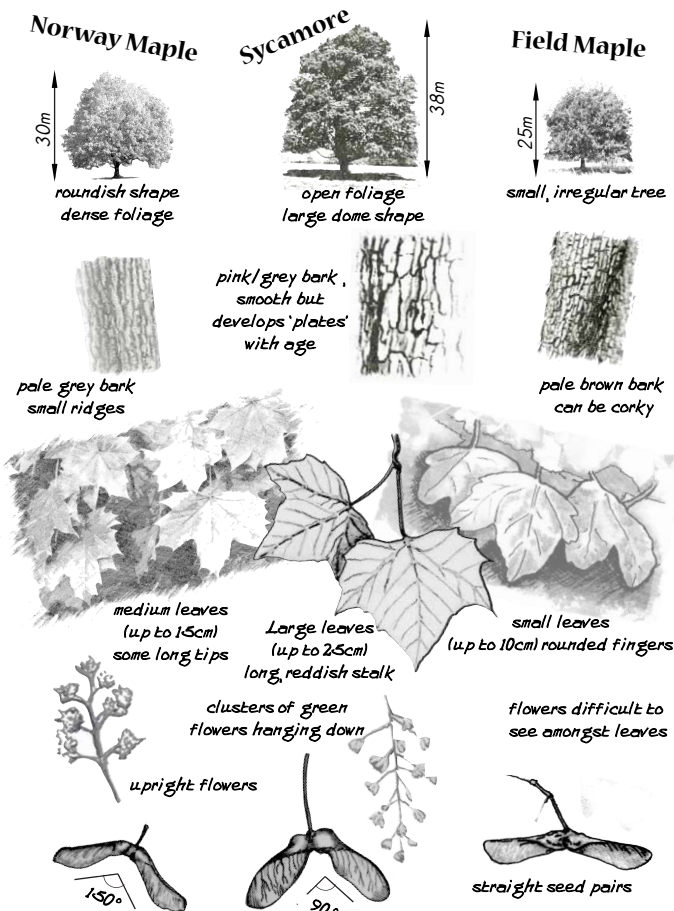


## What Does it Look Like?



## Good for Wildlife

Small insects like the leaves of field maples, which then attract larger species of ladybirds and hoverflies.

In the Park, the small, black and shiny St Mark's fly emerges around St Mark's Day on 25 April, swarming around the leaves of the field maples in Corrett's Copse.

Leaves are eaten by many moth species, the sycamore moth, the maple pug and the maple prominent to name just three.

The flowers provide nectar for bees and other insects.



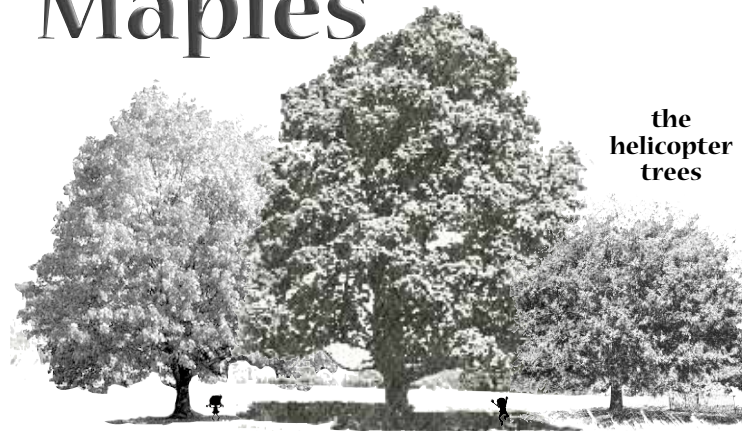
*Field Mouse*

Small mammals and birds eat the seeds of maples in the autumn.

# Tree of the Month

## Maples

October



the  
helicopter  
trees

**Norway Maple      Sycamore      Field Maple**

Maples belong to the Acer family, which contains more than 128 species, making it a very diverse and fascinating family of trees.

Field maples have been here since before the last ice age  
- therefore officially making them a native species.

Sycamore was brought to Britain, some say, by the Romans but it is more likely to have been introduced much later; perhaps in the 1600s, when Charles I created the deer park.

The Norway maple was introduced in 1683.

Sycamores and Norway maples are often used as urban trees. They resist pollution and so grow successfully in towns and cities.

The three main types of maple in the Park can also be found throughout southern England.

They have lobed or palmate\* leaves which turn yellow or red in the autumn and fruit called 'keys'.

The paired seeds have wings that allow them to twirl like a helicopter as they fall from the tree.



\* *palmate*

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## Uses of Maple

Maple wood is hard and very strong. Field Maple has dense timber with a lovely creamy colour. It was often used for carving, making furniture and musical instruments.

Field maple was often cut into veneer: A paper-thin layer of wood glued on poor quality wood to improve its appearance.

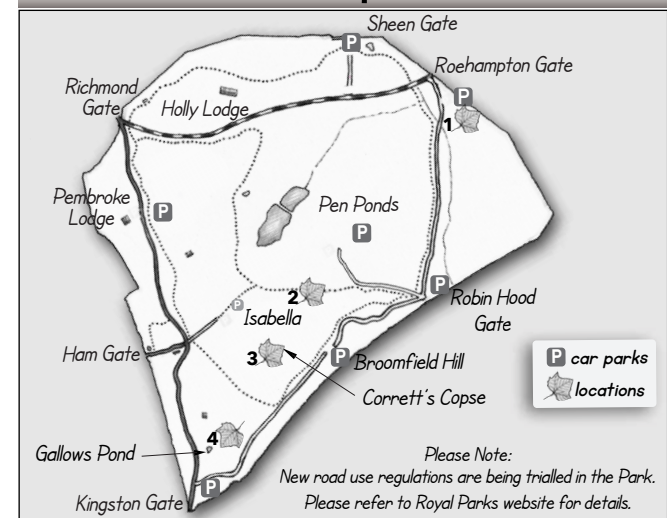
Some people in Europe used to hang Maple leaves around the doorways to stop bats getting into the buildings.

In past, the bark was sometimes used as a medicine to strengthen the liver:



Spot the deliberate (sort of) mistake!

## Where to find Maples in the Park



There are sycamores all over the Park.

Norway maples are less frequent but there is a notable one in front of the Roehampton Gate café. 1

There is a group of five field maples north-east of Isabella Plantation 2 including a particularly wonderful old one.

There is also a small collection in Corrett's Copse,  south of the Isabella Plantation.



One hundred Canadian sugar maples were planted by Gallow's Pond 4 in 1969. They look like Norway maples but have dangling clusters of flowers and strong autumn colour: