

## Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*)

Paperbark Maple is a small, woody, deciduous tree in the Sapindaceae (soapberry) family that originates from Central China. It has an upright oval habit and grows slowly to 20 to 30 feet tall and 15 to 25 feet wide. The genus name, “Acer”, is Latin for sharp and “griseum” means gray, perhaps alluding to the silvery gray undersides of this tree’s leaves.

The Paperbark Maple prefers full sun to partial shade in moist, well-drained soil. It will grow in a variety of soil types, including sand, loam, or clay and is adaptable to a variety of pH levels.

Its most striking feature is its exfoliating bark which starts out as cinnamon-brown to reddish-brown and then takes on a purple-brown color. The bark peels back in papery curls but remains on the tree instead of falling to the ground.

This hardy tree is one of the last maples to develop fall color and the leaves persist into winter. Given its smaller size, the Paperbark Maple is best used as a specimen tree in the home landscape, but adds interest to the urban forest.