

Field Maple *Acer Campestre*

The Field Maple is a deciduous tree, and Britain's only native Maple. It is a small tree with a round crown which grows to about 20 metres tall. Field Maples are somewhat warmth-loving, versatile trees, often grown in hedgerows and on the edge of woods. They thrive on the well drained chalky soil of Magog Down.

The flowers are yellow-green in colour and appear in April and May at the same time as the leaves.



The flowers stand erect above the leaves and both male and female reproductive parts are contained in each flower. They are pollinated by insects.

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Leaves have five blunt lobes



The new fruit wings are often pink-tinged.



The tree produces paired, winged seed pods which are held horizontally. They are dispersed by the wind, spinning off in autumn.

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Field maple twigs have small grey leaf buds. The buds alternate and are small, blunt and short and fat.



The bark is smooth and pale brown at first, becoming grey brown and rough with corky ridges with age.



Interesting Facts:

The Field Maple is unusual in that its outer branches and twigs often develop corky ridges as well as the main trunk.

Field Maple are tolerant of drought, wind exposure and pollution.

In autumn the leaves turn a rich gold, sometimes red.



Lichen can be seen on many of the trees. It provides important micro-habitats for various small invertebrates.