

# Armstrong Red Maple

©eNature.com

*Acer rubrum* 'Armstrong'

**Description** Large tree with narrow, compact crown and red flowers, fruit, leafstalks, and yellow to orange/red autumn foliage.

Height: 60-90' (18-27 m).

Diameter: 2 1/2' (0.8 m).

Leaves: opposite; 2 1/2-4" (6-10 cm) long and nearly as wide. Broadly ovate, with 3 shallow short-pointed lobes (sometimes with 2 smaller lobes near base); irregularly and wavy saw-toothed, with 5 main veins from base; long red or green leafstalk. Dull green above, whitish and hairy beneath; turning red, orange, and yellow in autumn.

Bark: gray; thin, smooth, becoming fissured into long thin scaly ridges.

Twigs: reddish, slender, hairless.

Flowers: 1/8" (3 mm) long; reddish; crowded in nearly stalkless clusters along twigs; male and female in separate clusters; in late winter or very early spring before leaves.

Fruit: 3/4-1" (2-2.5 cm) long including long wing; paired forking keys; red turning reddish-brown; 1-seeded; maturing in spring.

**Habitat** Wet or moist soils of stream banks, valleys, swamps, and uplands and sometimes on dry ridges; in mixed hardwood forests.

**Discussion** This tree is a cross between a red maple and fastigiated silver maple variety. As such it shares qualities of both the red maple and silver maple

