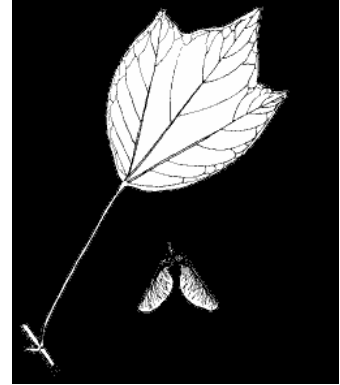


Acer buergeranum – Trident Maple

Picture from the Stanford tree web site

<http://trees.stanford.edu/images/ACER/fig289%20copy.gif>



Q: Is Trident maple a good tree for front yards?

A: This maple is underutilized and does very well in our area in contrast with the many maples that become stressed with the clayey soils and high pH common to much of the area. *Acer buergeranum* is a relatively small tree, with a height of about 30' and an equal spread. The rich green leaves are lighter on the underside, have three lobes and turn a rich butter gold to scarlet in the fall. Tridents will tolerate poor air quality, wind, compacted soils, a wide pH range, poor drainage and some drought, although like most landscape plants they do best with regular watering. The roots are not invasive, and not prone to lifting sidewalks. The bark is gray and platey, and if it exfoliates with age the smooth orange inner bark is seen. They are not prone to pests or disease, although they are vulnerable to *Armillaria* fungus, and should not be planted in a site that has been diagnosed. This is very popular bonsai tree, and will tolerate pruning gracefully. This is an underutilized tree in most urban neighborhoods. Fall is the best time to plant, and the best time to select a tree with good fall color.

Q: How can you tell which rose hips are good for tea?

A: All roses can produce hips (the name for the seed pods), but if you are choosing a rose specifically for the hips, the *Rugosa* rose, which produces large colorful hips is reported to do well here. The species roses, shrub roses and ramblers are most likely to have hips large enough to be noticed. If you want the seedpods, be sure to leave the blossoms on the plants. If you dead-head you will have no hips! All the rose hips are edible as long as you are not allergic to roses.