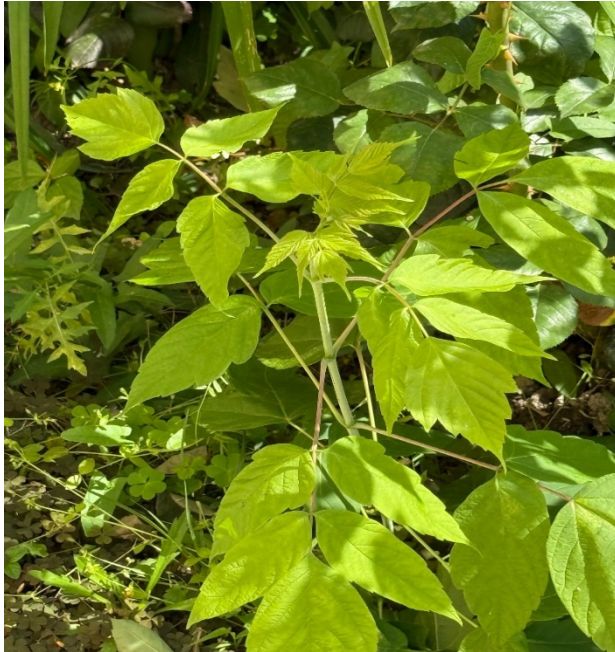


Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Acer negundo (*Acer negundo*)

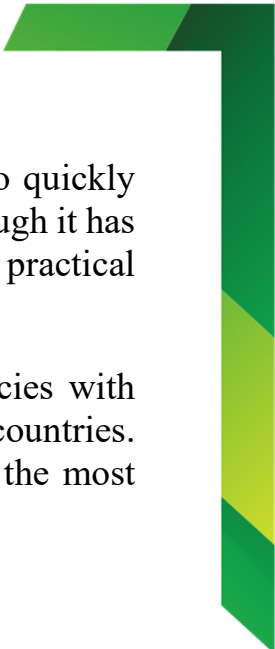
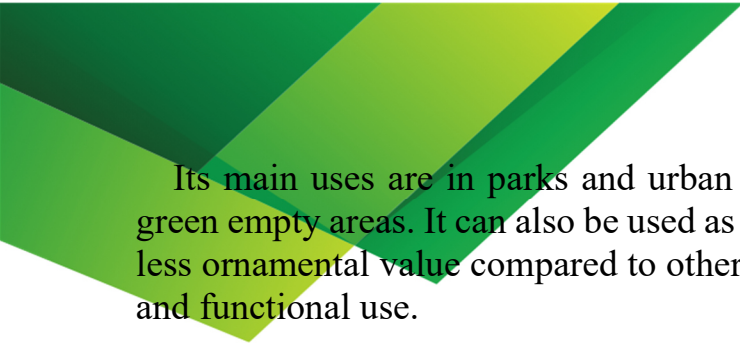
Acer negundo is a fast-growing deciduous tree commonly known as **box elder** or **ash-leaved maple**. Unlike other maples, its leaves are compound, resembling ash (*Fraxinus*) leaves, and usually consist of 3–7 small leaflets with a light green color. The crown is broad and somewhat sparse, and the trunk is relatively soft and develops quickly.



This species is native to North America but has been widely introduced across Europe and Asia. Due to its strong adaptability, it grows easily in various climates. It is commonly found along riverbanks, in parks and gardens, roadside areas, and even urban environments. In Azerbaijan, it is also planted for landscaping and greening purposes.

Acer negundo grows well in both sunny and partially shaded locations. It is not very selective about soil and can tolerate both moist and dry conditions. It is one of the fastest-growing tree species and can reach large sizes in a relatively short time. However, its branches are somewhat weak and may break in strong winds. Its main growth period is during spring and summer.

In terms of human and ecological impact, box elder has both beneficial and problematic characteristics. Its fast growth and shade-providing ability make it useful in urban greening. However, in some regions it behaves as an invasive species, competing with native vegetation. It also provides nectar for pollinators and helps reduce dust and wind in urban environments.



Its main uses are in parks and urban landscaping. It is often planted to quickly green empty areas. It can also be used as a windbreak in some cases. Although it has less ornamental value compared to other maples, it is highly valued for its practical and functional use.

Interestingly, *Acer negundo* is the only widely distributed maple species with compound leaves. Its strong spreading ability has made it invasive in some countries. Despite this, its adaptability and low maintenance needs make it one of the most commonly used trees in urban landscaping.

