



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SUGAR MAPLE CARE

LIGHT

Sugar maple grows in full sun to partial shade and needs ample room for its mature crown. Choose a cool, open lawn or woodland-edge site away from road-salt spray, heavy paving, and reflected heat. Cultivars differ in shape and final size; even narrow selections need a generous root area.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping the roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, soil drainage, and weather instead of following a fixed daily schedule. Newly planted trees need attention before established trees show drought stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide fertile, moist, well-drained soil, preferably slightly acidic. Avoid compacted ground, standing water, and repeated drying. Keep the root flare visible and mulch broadly without touching the trunk. Protect the root zone from grading, trenching, heavy vehicles, and new paving; these trees respond poorly to root disturbance.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy trees may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest amount of tree fertilizer in spring at the label rate. Keep fertilizer off the trunk and avoid heavy nitrogen or late-season feeding that promotes tender growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Develop a sound framework while the tree is young. Remove dead, broken, rubbing, or poorly attached branches selectively, preserving the natural form. Avoid topping and large unnecessary cuts. Maples may drip sap from late-winter or early-spring cuts; schedule elective light pruning for summer after leaves have expanded. Use an arborist for large limbs.

HELPFUL TIPS

Sugar maple is sensitive to road salt, soil compaction, and hot, dry urban sites. Brown leaf margins can signal moisture or root stress; investigate the site before feeding. Natural fall color ranges from yellow to orange and red. Do not confuse sugar maple with silver maple, which needs different siting guidance.