

# Sycamore

*Acer pseudoplatanus*

Family: Aceraceae (Maple)

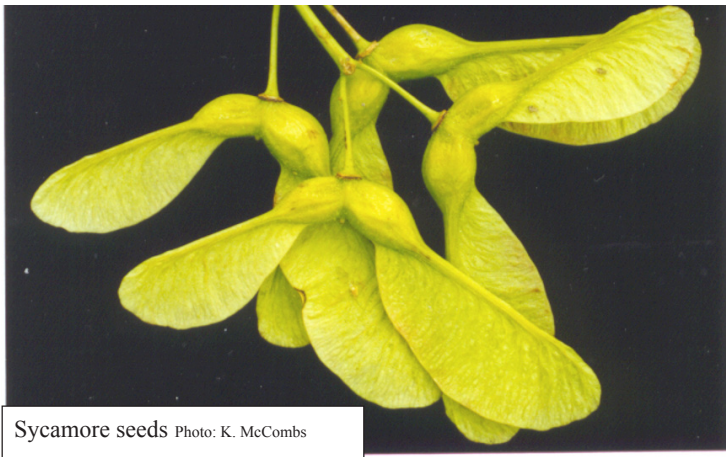
## Description

- Trees up to 25m tall that **lose their leaves** in winter.
- Leaves come off the stems in **pairs** that are exactly opposite each other.
- Leaves are green, **5 lobed** (maple-like) and on a **reddish** leaf stalk.
- Clusters of many small flowers (2-4mm long) appear at the same time as the leaves, in spring.
- Seeds hang in clusters and are the winged 'helicopter' type.



## Why is it a problem?

Sycamore trees are long-lived and are able to grow in a wide range of conditions. Each tree produces many seeds over its lifetime and these seeds are very efficiently wind dispersed. Seedlings are tolerant of shade and will produce dense stands, preventing native seedlings from establishing. Sycamore will also spread through suckering.



## Where is it a problem?

Sycamore is commonly grown as an ornamental species and is found from Auckland to Southland. It readily invades disturbed and intact forest, short tussockland, shrubland, waste sites and near waterways.

## Control

Seedlings can be pulled by hand. Trees can be cut and the stump painted immediately with herbicide, as untreated stumps will re-shoot. Large areas can be sprayed at full leaf stage only.

## Status

This species is *not* officially a plant pest in Canterbury, and has no legal control requirements. However, it is a weed in some situations. For example along riverbanks, seedlings can become naturalised and sycamore can also spread into areas of native bush.



## Alternatives to plant

Instead of planting sycamore, why not plant species such as *Ginkgo biloba*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Magnolia* species or perhaps native species such as ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*) or titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*).

For more information on sycamore, please email [weeds@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:weeds@ecan.govt.nz)

