

Field Maple

Acer campestre, commonly known as field maple, is a native tree species in Ireland and other parts of Europe. It is also frequently used as a hedging plant due to its attractive features and suitability for hedgerow planting.

Field maple is native to Ireland and can be found growing in various habitats, including woodlands, hedgerows, and open fields. It is well-adapted to the Irish climate and soil conditions.

As a tree, *Acer campestre* typically grows to a height of about 12 to 15 meters, though it can occasionally reach up to 21 meters. When used as a hedging plant, it is often maintained at a lower height through regular pruning.

Acer campestre is a popular choice for hedging in Ireland due to its dense growth habit, tolerance of pruning, and attractive foliage. It forms a thick, bushy hedge that provides privacy, acts as a windbreak, and offers habitat for wildlife. The hedge can be pruned to maintain a desired height and shape. Field maple hedges support a variety of wildlife. The dense foliage provides shelter and nesting sites for birds, while the flowers and fruits attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. In addition, the seeds and samaras serve as a food source for birds and small mammals.

Field maple is adaptable to a range of soil conditions, including well-drained soils and clay. It can tolerate both acidic and alkaline soils. As for sunlight, it prefers full sun to partial shade, though it can tolerate some shade.

Field maple is considered a valuable native tree in Ireland, and efforts are made to preserve and protect its populations. It is also recognized for its cultural significance and historical uses, such as in traditional hedgerow management and woodcraft.