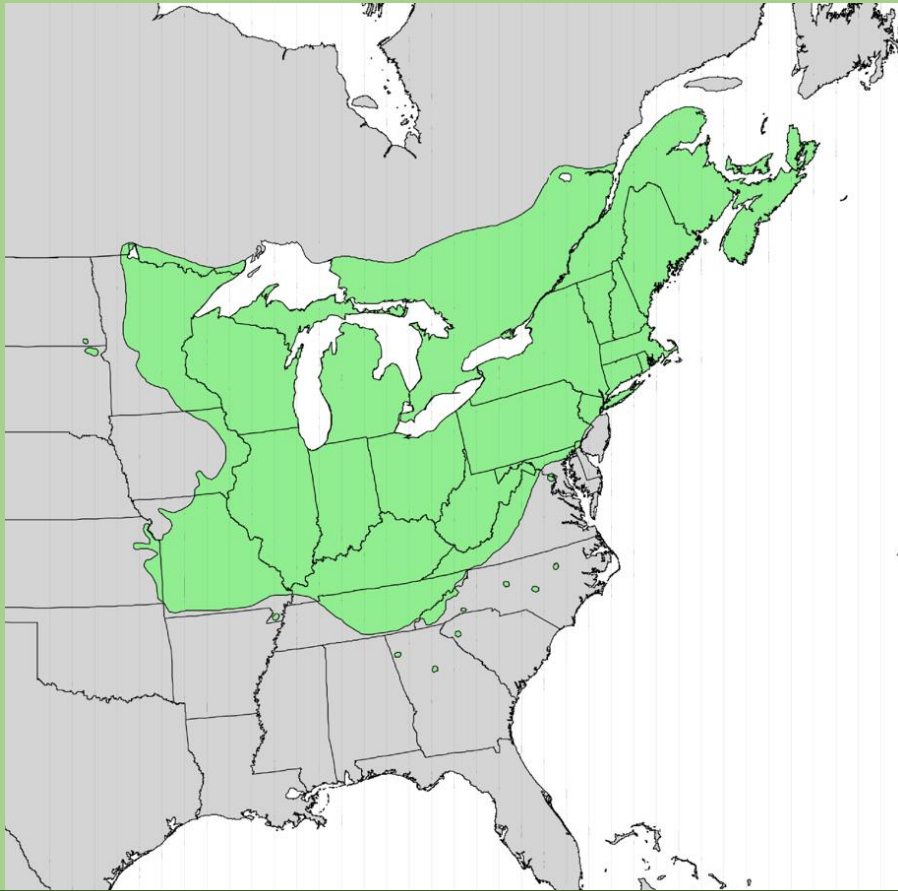


Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum



The sugar maple is a large and prominent deciduous hardwood of eastern North America, widespread across the eastern and midwestern US and along the southeastern Canadian border. It normally grows upwards of 70 feet at full maturity, but can grow exponentially larger, with one of the largest growing around 130 feet. Its annual life cycle is notable, with greenish flowers blooming in the spring, samaras—winged seeds—falling in the summer, and its recognizable 3-5 lobed leaves changing to a spectacular orange, red, and yellow color array in the fall. The leaves have opposite arrangement, and the bark starts brown when young and turns gray with furrows as it gets older. The tree too maintains a vital economic and cultural role, including its production of maple syrup and serving as the national symbol of Canada.