

Acer negundo



box elder

Family	Aceraceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	FAC	CoC 2



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DESCRIPTION

Usually a small tree (to 25 m tall), often with multiple trunks that have light brown, medium to coarse bark with vertical furrows and ridges. Current year twigs are typically green and smooth, often sprouting from the trunk. Older growth twigs are purple-brown. The crown is many branched, wide-spreading with low hanging branches. Leaves are compound, opposite, with 3 to 5 leaflets. Leaflets are smooth, elliptic (4 to 15 cm long), tapering to a pointed tip with coarse-toothed to lobed margins. The light green leaves turn yellow in the fall.



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Male flowers

Female flowers

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April; August to September. Flowers appear with or before the leaves, and clusters of male and female flowers are on separate plants. Flowers are drooping and hang at outer ends of the branches. Fruits are pairs of winged seeds (samaras), 2.5 to 4 cm long.

HABITAT

Floodplain forests, stream banks and edges of marshes.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Toxicodendron radicans, eastern poison ivy, is a vine with compound alternate (not opposite) leaves with three leaflets (never more). The vine stems wrap around tree trunks or low growing branches, giving the false appearance that its leaves are growing from the tree or shrub it is using for support. See *T. radicans* page for more details.



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Fruit



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A. negundo, opposite leaves