**Black Maple–*Acer saccharum nigrum***

Black maple is now acknowledged to be an ecotype of the sugar maple. It is distributed generally over the state and more commonly found along streams and broad flood plains, not on the uplands where sugar maple is more common. It is more abundant in the southern part of the state.

The mature bark of the older specimens is deeply furrowed and much darker than the common sugar maple. Lenticels on twigs are large and warty. Year-old twigs are light brown with stipular scars that nearly encircle the twig.

The simple, opposite leaves are a rich, deep green color above with entire wavy margins. Leaves are usually three-lobed but are occasionally five-lobed and are 4—51/2 inches (10—14 cm) long and wide. Foliage is dull green above and pale, yellowish-green below. When mature, the leaves have a drooping appearance. The stem of the leaf is enlarged at the base and surrounded by a winged appendage called a stipule. Fall foliage color is yellow.

Flowers are yellowish-green and bloom in April prior to the emergence of the foliage. Fruit is a samara with wings that are nearly parallel. The fruit matures in September.

Commercially, the lumber has the same uses as the sugar maple, and the tree is also a source of maple syrup. This tree may be better adapted as a landscape specimen than sugar maple in Ohio.