

Boxelder

Acer negundo

The Maple Family (Aceraceae)

Basic Description: Boxelder is a small to medium-sized tree with a short trunk, widely spreading branches and light green foliage. It has opposite, compound poison-ivy like leaves with three to seven leaflets. A hardy, fast-growing tree that can survive dry and extremely cold conditions.

Interesting Facts: The Plains Indians used the sugary sap as syrup.

Flower: Found on separate plants, the male and female flowers hang in clusters and are without petals.

Fruit: The female plant produces pairs of winged seeds called samaras.

Wildlife Value: Birds and small rodents eat the seed. Butterflies and moths drink the nectar and the leaves are a larval food for the Cercropia Silkmoth. Honey bees consume the nectar and pollen.

Habitat: Locally found growing in deep, moist soils on lakes, rivers and swamps, but also grows in the dry areas of the west and the Great Plains.

LEAF TYPE
COMPOUND

E POLLINATORD INSECTS

WILDLIFE VALUE
MEDIUM





