RED MAPLE

*Acer rubrum* Common name: Red Maple, Swamp Maple, Scarlet Maple

Red maple makes an excellent lawn or park tree. It is a medium to large deciduous tree with small fragrant clusters of red and orange flowers hanging from reddish twigs. One of the first trees to flower in winter and early spring.

**Wildlife Value**: A larval host plant for caterpillars.  Flower nectar attracts bees and other pollinators.  Seeds are enjoyed by birds.  White-tailed deer browse twigs and leaves but this tree is moderately resistant to damage.

**Exposure**: Full sun

**Soil:** moist, slightly acidic and fertile soil.

**Height**: 40-120 ft., usually less than 40 ft.

**Zones**: 2A-9B

**Habit**: Deciduous

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems**: Canker, fungal leaf spot, and root rots may also occur. Wind and ice can break branches. Has a shallow, flattened root system that may buckle nearby sidewalks or driveways.

**Care:** Prune at the earliest age possible to create clearance beneath the canopy. Prune to a single trunk. Pruning in late summer and early fall minimizes the impact on growth, as leaves remain on the tree during the entire growing season. To reduce susceptibility to disease and insects, and ensure minimum impact on the growth of the tree, prune twigs and branches early in the growth of the tree. Fertilize established plants in spring.

For information about gardening or the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Pender County, contact Tiffanee Boone, Pender County Horticulture & Local Foods Agent at tiffanee\_boone@ncsu.edu or 910-259-1235.

