

Botanical Name: Acer negundo

Common Name: Box elder

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single or multi-trunked plant, with ascending and spreading branches forming a broad rounded canopy; the plant tends to sucker very easily; young stems smooth, green

Height 30'-50' (60') Spread 3/4 to equal Growth Rate very rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full or partial sun

Soil prefers a moist deep loam or sandy soil; tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-10,12-24); thrives in hot humid valleys

Morphology:

Leaves pinnately compound, opposite, 3/5 (sometimes 5-7) leaflets; leaflets are ovate, coarsely serrate, pubescent when young; 2"-4" long, bright

Flowers unisexual, appearing before the leaves; green, apetalous; both male and female flowers in short racemes near ends of branches; spring

Fruit a samara: two-winged, 1-1/2"-2" long; drooping 6-8" clusters

Propagation: seed

Usage: very fast-growing shade tree; best used for quick effects in parks; has very aggressive root system; branch wood is brittle; tree has an extensive leaf drop; for large informal landscape areas

Landscape Care:

Watering thrives w/heavy watering; can tolerate short droughts

Fertilizing little required; may become chlorotic in wet habitats

Pruning head high and develop widely-spaced scaffold structure

Pests/Diseases box elder bug; powdery mildew (near the coast)

Special Conditions

Origin: Western U.S. Family: Aceraceae