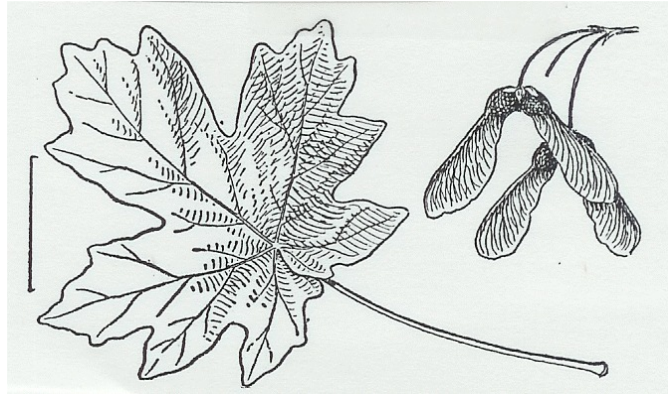


## Bigtooth Maple or Canyon Maple



The Bigtooth maple is common in the northern and eastern mountains of Utah, but uncommon in Colorado, where it grows in western canyons and on stream banks and hillsides, such as northern slopes in Mesa Verde National Park. It grows at altitudes from 7000 to 8000 feet in elevation, often as a shrub with several stems to about 10 or 20 feet high, sometimes as a tree with a single trunk 6 inches or more across. Maximum height is about 40 or 50 feet.

This is close relative of the sugar maple, and maple syrup can be made from the sap, at a ratio near 40 gallons of sap for one gallon of syrup. Numerous small birds and mammals eat the seeds, buds and flowers. Squirrels and chipmunks make caches of seeds. Bigtooth maple provides browse for mule deer, and elk. The scientific name is "*Acer grandidentatum* Nuttall ex Torrey & Gray."

### Identification

Leaves: "maple-shaped" with three to five blunt lobes, dark green, 2 to 4 1/2 inches long and wide. Fall color is a deep red, or yellow and orange.

Fruit: 2-winged samara (winged maple seed pair) 1/2 to 1 inch long; young seeds are rose color.

Flowers appear in the spring (April and May) before the leaves.

Stems: branchlets covered with short hairs, or smooth twigs.

Bark: thin, gray to brown, separating into plate-like scales.

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