

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)

Short shrubby trees growing in moist soils. Leaves are rounded with 7 to 9 lobes. The fruit wing spread widely to form a straight line.

Habitat

Range extends from the southern part of British Columbia south to the Sacramento River in California and reported in two small areas on Vancouver Island. The vine maple can be found growing in forest openings and recently logged areas. Patches or clumps of vine maples also grow along streams or river banks even if the terrain is quite rocky. This tree tolerates shade very well making it ideal for the forest understory.



Size and Form

Appearing as a large shrub or in dense thickets, the vine maple has a short twisted trunk. Its' gnarled appearance, from which it derives its' name is accented by a few spreading limbs. The crown is low and broad and irregular.

Leaves

The leaves of the vine maple have from seven to nine lobes and veins which form a somewhat circular shape from 3 to 10 cm across. The lobes are triangular, separated by V-shaped notches.

Sometimes outlined in red in the spring the leaves are a bright yellow - green. The undersurface is pale green; downy in the spring but hairless in the fall. In the autumn these leaves turn yellow, orange and scarlet.

