

# The Colonial Woodsmyth

**Common Name:** Ambrosia Maple

**Botanical Name:** Acer rubrum



Ambrosia maple comes from regular soft maple and Hard Maple trees that have been infested by the ambrosia beetle. The small beetle bores a network of tunnels and short galleries called cradles. A fungus is responsible for the blue, gray and brown streaks and decorative patch work that accompany each tunnel and adjacent wood. The streaks and patch work add a unique look to this hardwood without affecting its structural integrity. This wood is mostly found in the central part of Eastern United States.



The tunnels made from the beetles are extremely small. The infestation of the ambrosia beetle is terminated during the kiln drying process and will not start again in dry wood as the beetle needs somewhat wet wood to survive. Ambrosia beetles also infest other species such as birch, Aspen and Beech.

**Common Uses:** Boxes and crates, Core Stock, Furniture , Pallets, Paneling , Pulpwood, Truck bodies, Building materials, Casks, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Desks, Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Fine furniture, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Interior

construction, Kitchen cabinets, Living-room suites, Office furniture, Packing cases, Pulp/Paper products, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Stools, Tables , Utility furniture, Vehicle parts, Veneer, Wainscotting, Wardrobes

**Region:** North America

**Country:** United States

Williamsburg, VA  
[www.colonialwoodsmyth.com](http://www.colonialwoodsmyth.com)

**Tree Data:** The state tree of Rhode Island, Red maple, like other soft maples, is reported to grow very rapidly during the first 20 to 30 years, and is popular as decorative and street trees. The mature tree measures about 60 to 90 feet (18 to 27 m) in height and about 30 inches (80 cm) in diameter.

**Sapwood Color:** The wide sapwood is white in color.

**Heartwood Color:** The heartwood is light brown and may occasionally show a grayish or greenish tinge or a faint purplish hue.

**Grain:** Straight but occasionally curly or wavy. The wood is described as close-grained.

**Texture:** The wood is fine textured.