Norway Maple  
(*Acer platanoides*)

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**Summary:**
- **Foliage:** Deciduous broadleaf
- **Height:** 50 feet
- **Spread:** 50 feet
- **Shape:** Oval to round

Norway maple is a medium/large shade tree that is tolerant of adverse conditions. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Resources and the Virginia Native Plant Society have ranked Norway maple as a “moderately invasive species” in the mountain, piedmont, and coastal areas of Virginia.

**Plant Needs:**
- **Zone:** 3 to 7
- **Light:** Partial shade to full sun
- **Moisture:** Moist to dry
- **pH Range:** 3.7 to 8.0
- **Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay

**Functions:**
Suggested uses for this plant include shade, specimen plant, and street tree.

**Planting Notes:**
- Transplants readily.
- Adapts well to a wide range of soil conditions, including clay soils.
- Tolerates air pollution.
- Salt tolerant.
- Tolerates hot, dry conditions better than sugar maple.

**Care:**
- Requires little or no maintenance.
- Prune diseased or storm-damaged wood as needed.
- Because of this tree's dense foliage and shallow root system, mulching around the base of the tree is suggested since it is hard to get anything to grow under it.

**Problems:**
- Susceptible to Verticillium wilt, anthracnose, and some leaf scorch. Trees produce many surface roots which, in lawn situations, make mowing difficult.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.
- Cultivars of *Acer platanoides*:
  - `Crimson King' has purple leaves that retain their color all summer.
  - `Columnare' is one of several varieties with a narrow, columnar habit of growth.
  - `Globosum' is a low growing, round-headed tree that can be used under utility wires.

**Comments:**
Norway maple tends to naturalize outside of cultivation and is a problem in some northern states. The sale and use of this species has been banned in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

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