Sugar Maple  
(*Acer saccharum*)

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**Summary:**
- **Foliage:** Deciduous broadleaf  
- **Height:** 100 feet  
- **Spread:** 80 feet  
- **Shape:** Oval to round  

Sugar maple is a medium/large shade tree with a no less than spectacular fall foliage display. There are many cultivars; cultivar characteristics include growth rate, form, and fall foliage color.

**Plant Needs:**
- **Zone:** 3 to 8  
- **Light:** Partial shade to full sun  
- **Moisture:** Moist to dry  
- **Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay loam  
- **pH Range:** 3.7 to 6.5

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include shade or specimen tree.

**Planting Notes:**
- Does best when planted in location where it will have ample room to spread.

**Care:**
- Requires little care when planted in proper location (well-drained, fertile, moist soil away from polluted city conditions).

**Problems:**
- Leaf scorch (in excessive droughts) and Verticillium wilt can be a problem.  
- Susceptibility to gas and smoke damage makes sugar maple less suitable for city conditions than Norway and red maples.

**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 saccharum***:  
  - **Bonfire™** is a fast-growing cultivar with bright orange/red fall foliage.  
  - `Globosum' -- a dwarf, globe-shaped form (10 by 10 feet after 20 years)  
  - `Columnare' -- an upright columnar form  
  - **Green Mountain®** -- tolerates heat and is scorch resistant.  
  - `'Legacy' is a fast-growing cultivar with a variable fall foliage color.

**Comments:**
- The fire-red to yellow color of the sugar maple fall foliage is no less than spectacular. This species tends to have a solid symmetrical canopy which imparts a formal look.
- The sap of this tree can be boiled down to produce maple syrup and sugar.
- Mature sugar maples show a wide variation in form, but tend to have a broad, rounded head.

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