Like the Ash, the leaves are both opposite (on the branch), and compound (composed of leaflets). Each leaf has 3 (seldom 5) leaflets which are slightly lobed and coarsely saw-toothed.

The bark is gray and, with age, becomes fissured. The twigs are green, even whitish, slender and hairless. The branches are brittle and easily broken in wind-storms. The branching is spontaneous leaving an indefinite shape to the tree.

The Boxelder is neither a Box (*Buxus*) nor an Elder (*Sambucus*) but has some similar features. It is a fast growing tree and is used often as a shade tree. But older trees lack the structure and form of other members of the Maple family.

Like all maples the seed comes as an attached pair of keys. These make a very sharp angle with each other, and stay attached all winter until they are carried off by a strong wind.

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