

Silver Maple

(*Acer saccharinum*)

Silver Maple is a fast-growing, large shade tree with soft wood and deeply lobed leaves. In Colorado, it is **commonly planted but prone to structural weakness**, chlorosis in alkaline soils, and several pests and diseases including **borers**, **scale**, **leaf scorch**, and **fungal leaf spots**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Scale insects (oystershell, cottony, others)	Insect/scale	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	 

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Maple borers (flatheaded & roundheaded borers)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Verticillium wilt	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Anthracnose / leaf spot	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Leaf scorch (heat/drought)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Chlorosis (iron deficiency)	Abiotic	Spring–Summer	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew dripping from canopy • Sooty mold on leaves/cars • Leaf curling or distortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse leaves • Encourage predators (lady beetles) • Systemic treatments for major outbreaks
Scale Insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard bumps or cottony masses on bark • Yellowing leaves • Branch dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Horticultural oil in late winter • Prune infested twigs

Problem

Common Symptoms

Treatment & Management

Maple Borers (Flatheaded Borer, Roundheaded Borer)

- D-shaped or round exit holes
- Boring dust
- Branch dieback

- Keep tree vigorous—borers target stressed trees
- Deep watering during drought
- Professional preventive sprays if activity confirmed

Verticillium Wilt

- Sudden wilting on one side
- Brown streaking in sapwood
- Leaf scorch not tied to weather

- No cure—manage symptoms
- Prune affected limbs
- Deep watering & mulch to reduce stress

Anthracnose / Leaf Spot

- Brown blotches along veins
- Distorted leaves
- Early leaf drop in spring

- Rake infected leaves
- Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation
- Fungicides rarely needed

Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)

- Browning at leaf edges
- Crispy leaf margins
- Early color change

- Deep water every 2–3 weeks
- Maintain mulch ring
- Reduce reflected heat if possible

Chlorosis (Iron Deficiency)

- Yellow leaves with green veins
- Stunted growth
- Canopy thinning

- Iron soil amendments or trunk injections (pros)
- Improve drainage & aeration
- Avoid overwatering in clay soils

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Rapid wilting or dieback on one side of the canopy (Verticillium wilt)

- D-shaped or round borer exit holes in trunk or limbs
- Large branches cracking or splitting (Silver Maple wood is brittle)
- Heavy scale infestation with sooty mold across canopy
- Severe yellowing (chlorosis) causing branch decline

These issues may require **professional arborist intervention**.

Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Light anthracnose in wet springs
- Minor aphid honeydew without dieback
- Slight scorch after extreme heat
- Occasional early leaf drop
- Small patches of scale on isolated twigs

These typically resolve with **routine watering and seasonal changes**.