

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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Maple Borers (Flatheaded Borer, Roundheaded Borer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-shaped or round exit holes • Boring dust • Branch dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep tree vigorous—borers target stressed trees • Deep watering during drought • Professional preventive sprays if activity confirmed
Verticillium Wilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden wilting on one side • Brown streaking in sapwood • Leaf scorch not tied to weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cure—manage symptoms • Prune affected limbs • Deep watering & mulch to reduce stress
Anthracnose / Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown blotches along veins • Distorted leaves • Early leaf drop in spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake infected leaves • Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation • Fungicides rarely needed
Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browning at leaf edges • Crispy leaf margins • Early color change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks • Maintain mulch ring • Reduce reflected heat if possible
Chlorosis (Iron Deficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow leaves with green veins • Stunted growth • Canopy thinning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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**.