Not all maples look like the Canadian flag. There are many different leaf shapes and some are even evergreen!

Sexually Diverse MAPLES
Self-Guided Tour
Sex, it’s not that simple.

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Plant Sex
Most plants are hermaphrodites (a single flower has both male and female reproductive parts, aka perfect flowers ♂♀). Other plants will have male flowers (staminate ♂) and/or female (pistillate ♀) flowers.

Plants with male and female flowers are monoecious ♂♀ (think of one of your arms being female and the other male). If an entire individual has only one flower sex, it is dioecious ♂♂. Some plants will only have perfect flowers and male flowers on the same plant (no female flowers), these are andromonoecious ♂♂. Rarely, plants can be androdioecious ♂♂ some male plants and some hermaphrodites. There are even plants that will change sex as they age or depending on growing conditions.

Maples Run the Gamut
Maples (Acer spp.) have it all when it comes to sexual forms. They can be male one year and female the next, a little bit of both, or anything in between. The only consistency is maples have winged fruits, like whirligigs, called samaras.

1. Five-Lobed Maple
   Acer pentaphyllum
   Native to Sichuan Province, China
   ♂♀
   Considered one of the rarest maples in the wild.

2. Evergreen Maple
   Acer albo-purpurascens
   Native to Taiwan
   ♂♀
   Evergreen unlike most maples. Bark is dark.

3. Paperbark Maple
   Acer griseum
   Native to central, eastern China
   Rarely, plants can be androdioecious ♂♂ some male plants and some hermaphrodites. There are even plants that will change sex as they age or depending on growing conditions.

4. Kawakami Maple
   Acer caudatifolium
   Native to Taiwan
   A snake bark maple. Reddish samaras turn tan when ripe.

5. Full Moon Maple
   Acer japonicum
   Native to Japan, Kuril Islands
   ♂♀
   Name for its full moon shaped leaves. Dark purple, drooping flower clusters in mid-spring.

6. Redvein Maple
   Acer rufinerve
   Native to Japan
   ♂♀
   Japanese name translates to melon-skin maple. Leaves have veins with red-rust colored hairs.

7. Trident Maple
   Acer buergerianum
   Native to China, Japan, Taiwan
   ♂♀
   Popular for bonsai and a good choice for home gardens as it tolerates drought.

8. Henry’s Maple
   Acer henryi
   Native to China
   ♂♀
   Long drooping flower clusters. Great fall color and winter interest resembling bamboo.

9. Miyabe Maple
   Acer miyabei
   Native to Japan
   ♂
   Several cultivars in Europe, but wild habitat (along streams) fragmented.

10. Siebold Maple
    Acer sieboldianum
    Native to Japan
    ♂♀
    Similar to A. palmatum, but underside of leaves are hairy. Rare in cultivation outside Japan.

11. Snake Bark Maple
    Acer morrisonense
    Native to Taiwan
    ♂
    One of several species of maples known for their snakeskin-like bark.

12. Coliseum Maple
    Acer cappadocicum subsp. sinicum
    Native to southwestern China
    ♂♂
    Samaras can create a red halo around trees in late spring, unusual for maples.

13. Japanese Maple
    Acer palmatum
    Native to Korea, Japan, Taiwan
    ♂♀
    Hundreds of cultivars bred for spectacular fall colors. Huge variation in leaf and tree shape.

14. Broad Maple
    Acer amplum subsp. catalpifolium
    Native to China, Vietnam
    ♂♀
    SBG has one of the only specimens in cultivation in North America.

IUCN Red List
Least Concern LC
Vulnerable VU
Critically Endangered CR
Near Threatened NT
Endangered EN
Extinct in the Wild EX