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Acer pseudoplatanus (Maple-Sycamore) ID #570

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Salve Regina University

Maple-Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus
ID #570

Over the first half of the spring semester, we were told to select a tree anywhere on campus to observe and take photographs of it every so often. Since time for student's to be on campus was cut short due to the Coronavirus, we were unable to observe our selected tree after March 13th. The tree that I selected is located on the lawn on Watts-Sherman along Victoria Avenue. I chose this tree because the size of the tree and ivy that covers the trunk stood out to me and I passed by it every day as I was walking to or from my dorm in Wallace Hall, which made it easy to observe.

Figure 1: a photo of my tree on February 5th, 2020.

Figure 2: a photo of ivy growing around the trunk on April 20th, 2020.

I learned more about this tree after examining the details from ArborScope by looking up the tree's ID number, which is 570. The radius of crown is 10 meters, the height is 20 meters, and the DHB (diameter at breast height) is 40 centimeters. The maple-sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) on our campus is mature but in poor condition due to the ivy that is growing around the trunk. After researching my tree, I found that it is known to grow in average to medium moisture with well-draining soil in full sunlight or partly shaded areas. The maple-sycamore can tolerate many different soils, is tolerant of salt, some drought and urban pollutants (misouribontanicalgarden.org). In the spring, there are greenish-yellow followers that emerge, and in the fall, the leaves do not produce a different color.

The maple-sycamore tree's (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) native range is from northwest to central Europe, Italy, and western Asia and some other tress that grow in its native range are beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*), fir and spruce (*Picea abies*), alder (*Alnus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), and elm (*Ulmus*). When it was first

Figure 3: a photo showing the ID number of the maple-sycamore. March 1st, 2020.

Figure 4: a photo showing the top branches of the maple-sycamore. April 20th, 2020.

brought to the United States, it became invasive in Connecticut and Pennsylvania but was not acknowledged as invasive until the 1950's.

This tree is special to Salve because being right on the water, it can be windy, so this tree serves as a good windbreaker in maritime area like Newport. The maple-sycamore can be special to the Sisters of Mercy because it serves different purposes to benefit humans because it contains a sap that can be extracted from the tree at the end of the winter and made into a syrup or the wood could be used for carvings or can make good charcoal that could be used as fuel.

I was looking forward to observing my tree during the entire course of the semester, but unfortunately since it was cut short, I am currently unable to examine the physical characteristics of the Maple-sycamore during the springtime. I was looking forward to watching my tree bloom and taking more photographs to look at the physical changes over the course of the spring semester. Overall, this project has taught me more about the Salve arboretum and how important is it to protect and preserve the trees on our campus, as well as other places.

Resources:

Acer Pseudoplatanus - Plant Finder, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275368&isprofile=0&.

Acer Pseudoplatanus (Sycamore), www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/2884#tosummaryOfInvasiveness.

Pfaf Plant Search, pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?latinname=Acer+pseudoplatanus.