

Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

Maple Family (Aceraceae)

General Description: Shrub to small tree 20 to 30ft tall; rounded crown with a twisted, irregular trunk. Sometimes vine maple will crawl along the ground if the canopy is too crowded.

Key Characteristics: Bark on twigs is shiny, pink, sometimes lime green on one side. Lenticels are small and pale but numerous. Buds are oppositely arranged, terminal buds are longer. Terminal buds typically appear in pairs.

Confused With: Bigleaf Maple, note the small, more equally sized buds, as opposed to Bigleaf Maple's underdeveloped lateral buds and prominent terminal bud.

Photo: Joe Bettis