

SPOTLIGHT

BOXELDER



Seedlings of boxelder (*Acer negundo*), also known as ash-leaved maple, colonizing stone stairs rising from Bonsall to Walnut Streets in Center City.

In Philadelphia two hundred years ago boxelder was described as a “very large tree,” occurring “on the Schuylkill, near the falls, east side, and elsewhere.”¹ In 1831 it was offered for sale in Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia for 25 cents each.² Currently it grows wild in Center City where it typically occurs as a shrub or small tree, except along the Schuylkill River bank where it still attains a large size.