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The flight path of a maple seed visualized in a composite multiflash photograph. Autorotating seeds slow their descent by exploiting the low pressure generated by a vortex that forms at the leading edge of their spinning wing. A similar leading-edge vortex also elevates the lift of insect, bat, and hummingbird wings. See page 1438.

Photo: David Lentink

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1438 Leading-Edge Vortices Elevate Lift of Autorotating Plant Seeds
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