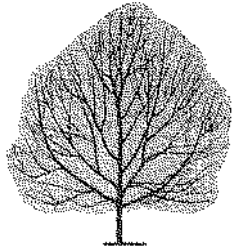


Quercus rubra - Northern Red Oak or Red Oak (*Fagaceae*)

Quercus rubra is a large shade tree that thrives in dry sites, often with good brick-red autumn color, becoming very rounded to spreading with age. Northern Red Oak is probably the most common landscape Oak of the Midwest.

FEATURES

Form



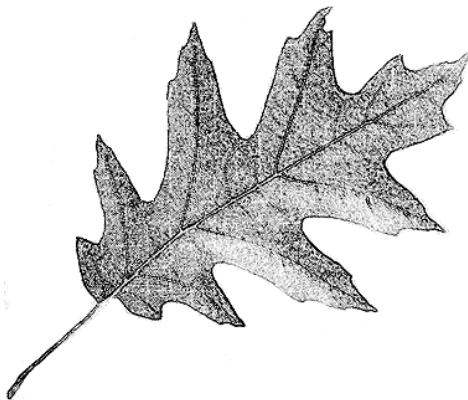
- large shade tree
- maturing at about 60' tall x 80' wide under urban conditions, but much larger in the wild
- upright oval growth habit in youth, becoming rounded to spreading with age
- medium growth rate

Culture

- full sun to partial sun (partial shade tolerant in youth)
- performs best in full sun in moist, deep, acidic, well-drained soils, but is very adaptable to poor soils, dry soils, and soils of various pH
- propagated by seeds
- no serious diseases or pests
- commonly available in the trade
- member of the Red Oak group; some of these members may hybridize freely in the wild, resulting in a blending of traits such as leaf shape and fruit size

Foliage

- shiny dark green, alternate, with an overall shape that is obovate and about 7" long, with 7-11 prominent bristle-tipped lobes (identifying it as belonging to the Red Oak group), with each lobe incised and with a deep sinus on each side, having a 1.5" long petiole that turns a distinctive yellow or red by mid-summer
- autumn color is usually brick red to scarlet and very attractive (but may on occasion be brown-red to yellowish-brown in poor years)



Flowers

- yellow-brown pendulous male catkins are obvious and prominent in late Apr., but are ornamentally insignificant, as are the very small pistillate flowers

Fruits

- a relatively large oval acorn (1" long)



that matures over 2 seasons, with a wide cap that covers the upper one-fourth of the nut, on a very short peduncle and either single or in pairs, but clustered on the second-year wood and often with a heavy mast crop (abundant fruit production)

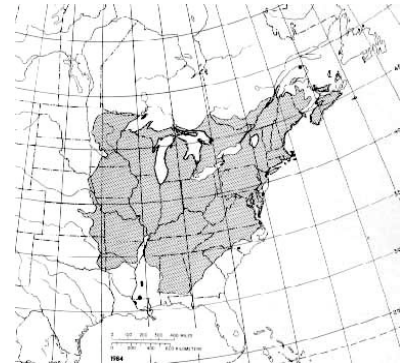
Twigs

- greenish- to reddish-brown, turning gray by the second year and somewhat stout

Trunk

- dark gray to black, being lightly furrowed with flat-topped subtle ridges through middle age, and becoming deeply furrowed with a light reddish interior bark in old age

- branches arising directly from the trunk are relatively few, but large, adding to the bold texture by their size, and by exposing the large trunk more than most Oaks



USAGE

Function

- shade tree for large lawns, parks, golf courses, corporate centers, or naturalized areas
- valuable timber tree, with its wood prized for beams, boards, railroad ties, and furniture

Texture

- bold texture in foliage and when bare
- average density in foliage but open when bare

Assets

- one of the most rapidly growing and vigorous Oaks
- good brick-red autumn color
- the most bold-textured member of the Red Oak group
- urban tolerant in general, especially to dry sites
- one of the best Oaks for transplant success
- abundant nuts attract wildlife (large birds, deer, and especially squirrels)

Liabilities

- fruit litter with maturity

Habitat

- Zones 5 to 8
- Native to the Eastern half of the U.S.

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- large shade trees (*Acer saccharum*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Quercus shumardii*, *Zelkova serrata*, etc.)
- trees for dry sites (*Celtis occidentalis*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus macrocarpa*, etc.)

Variants

- straight species is the available form