



## Red oak - *Quercus rubra*

**Description:** Generally red oak is found on relatively moist sites in deep rich soils although it can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Red oak has high value wood used in a large variety of wood products including flooring and furniture. They provide food for wildlife and are often grown as shade trees for lawns and streets.



**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, 5 to 8 inches long, oblong in shape with 7 to 11 bristle-tipped lobes, generally very uniform in shape, dull green to blue-green above and paler below.

**Flower:** Monoecious; males in yellow-green slender, hanging catkins, 2 to 4 inches long; females are borne on short axillary spikes, appearing with the leaves in spring.

**Fruit:** Acorns are 3/4 to 1 inch long and nearly round; cap is flat and thick, covering about 1/4 or less of the acorn, resembling a beret; matures in 2 growing seasons, in late summer and fall.

**Twig:** Quite stout, red-brown and glabrous; terminal buds multiple, quite large, conical, and covered with red-brown, mostly hairless scales but terminal scales may bear some frosty pubescence.

**Bark:** On young stems, smooth; older bark develops wide, flat-topped ridges and shallow furrows. The shallow furrows form a pattern resembling ski tracks.

**Form:** A medium sized to large tree that reaches up to 90 feet tall, develops a short trunk and round crown when open grown, straight with a clear, long bole when grown with competition.

### Site requirements:

Although red oak is found in a wide array of locations, it always grows best on lower and middle slopes with northerly or easterly aspects, in coves and deep ravines, and on well-drained valley floors in nature. In a lawn or on the street it prefers moist to well-drained conditions.

Zone 3-8