



NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra

The red oak is a deciduous tree with simple, alternate leaves that change to a red and then a rust colour in the fall. The leaves often remain on the trees throughout some of winter.

Northern red oak trees are fast growing, attractive trees that form a broad, rounded canopy. They are a good urban tree due to their tolerance to acidic soils, air pollution and drought conditions.

Northern red oaks can live to be anywhere from 100 to 300 years old reaching heights of 20 to 30 metres tall, occasionally up to 50 metres.



TREE IDENTIFICATION

The leaves of the red oak are alternate with 7-11 lobes which are tipped with a soft bristle.

The buds are shiny brown and mostly hairless. There are a cluster of buds at the tips of each twig.

The acorns are 12-25 mm long, almost just as wide and take two years to develop. They are hairless and have saucer-shaped cups.

Young trees have smooth grey bark, which turns dark and rough as it ages.



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HABITAT & RANGE



Northern red oak grows best in well-drained soils. It likes sunny areas but also tolerates a small amount of shade.



They are widely distributed through Eastern Canada and the USA.

USES OF NORTHERN RED OAK



Northern red oaks provide food, nesting and roosting sites for a wide variety of wildlife from small mammals to birds and insects.



The wood of the oaks trees is an important source of lumber for cabinetry, furniture, flooring and more.



INTERESTING FACTS

Often planted in urban areas as a shade tree due to its broad canopy.

Being a fast growing tree, it is sometimes used to re-vegetate disturbed sites.

It is native to PEI and is the provincial tree.



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