



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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Red Oak Tree

Red Oak

(Quercus rubra) 1+0

Type

Deciduous tree

Size and Shape

Red Oak can reach up to 30 m in height and diameters of 30—90 cm. This tree does not do well when it is too close to other trees. Red Oak should be planted at minimum 14.5m from hydro lines.

Edible Species?

Yes.

Distribution and Habitat

Red oak is common in mixed and deciduous forests.

Wildlife

The acorns of oak trees are an important food source for animals such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and woodpeckers.

Soil Preference

Red Oak trees do best growing in fine, deep soils that have a loam or silt-loam texture. Porous, sandy or gravelly soils with good drainage are also suitable.

Other

Sometimes dead leaves stay on oak trees, even in the winter .

Light Exposure

Red Oak can tolerate shade when younger but needs full sunlight as it grows.

Drought Conditions

Can tolerate a variety of moisture levels.

Salt Tolerance

Not tolerant.

Disease, Pests and Problems

It resists most diseases and pests . Some Red Oaks may be afflicted with leaf galls, which are swollen deformations of plant tissue caused by parasites. One of the most damaging pests for red oak is the gypsy moth.

Rural Uses

Oak is a highly valued wood, often used for trim, flooring or furniture, and has a very hard reddish brown wood.

Urban Uses

Red oak has been extensively planted as an ornamental because of its symmetrical shape and brilliant fall foliage. The red oak needs room to grow — it can tolerate shade when it's younger, but needs full sun as it gets older.