

Large Tree (over 40')  
Deciduous

Native  
Map #62

**Red Oak**  
(*Quercus rubra*)  
Family: *Fagaceae*



**Leaves:** alternate, simple, 4-8" long, 7-11 pointed lobes, tufts of hair in vein axils; fall - russet to red.

**Buds:** shingled, sharp pointed, reddish brown, only slightly hairy at bud tips.

**Stems:** reddish to greenish brown, shiny and smooth.

**Bark:** black; wide flattened ridges ("ski trails").

**Flowers:** male and female on same plant; males in pendulous catkins, females in tiny spikes; not showy.

**Fruits:** acorn, solitary or in pairs, ¾-1" long, usually not quite round, enclosed at the base by a thick flat cap; attracts wildlife.

**Habit:** rounded.

**Culture:** The excellent cultural adaptability and ornamental features of this species has led to its extensive use in the landscape industry. Adaptable. Is intolerant of very high pH soils. Full sun. It has moderate transplantability and specimens of 4-6" caliper can be transplanted with good success. This species has a moderately fast growth rate.

Oaks are sensitive to construction activity and landscape cultivation when properties are developed that have mature oaks. Response is gradual and may go unnoticed for 20 years or more.

The red oak group is more susceptible to oak wilt than the white oak group. It is important to only prune oaks when they are dormant as oak wilt can be spread through open pruning cuts during the growing season.

**Miscellaneous:** Oak was selected as the National Tree in 1998 when the first nationwide poll for this distinction was conducted. There is a species of oak native to every state in the country.

**Related species:** Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea*); Black Oak (*Q. velutina*); Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*) - becomes chlorotic on alkaline soil.



**Oak wilt quickly kills most infected trees. Wilting leaves turn brown at the margins (inset) and fall as the tree dies.**



Picnic Beetle spreads oak wilt



Oak Chlorosis

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