

# Quercus coccinea

## Scarlet Oak



*Quercus coccinea* (scarlet oak) is a large, deciduous tree with stunning autumn colour. The scarlet oak is found in eastern parts of the United States where it grows with *Quercus alba*, *Quercus velutina*, *Quercus marilandica*, *Oxydendrum arboreum*, *Cornus florida* and *Kalmia latifolia*. *Quercus coccinea* was described in 1770 by German botanist and correspondent of Linnaeus, Otto von Münchhausen. The scarlet oak can reach a height of approximately 25 metres and develop a lovely round crown fifteen metres wide.

The leaves of the scarlet oak are oval or egg-shaped with six to nine triangular lobes. They have a red velvet colour when they emerge before turning matt green and glossy. They change colour at the end of October and early November to a dazzling russet brown and scarlet red. The male golden yellow catkins are small and appear before or together with the first new leaves. The acorns have a flat cup and are round. The generally single stem has dark grey to black bark and shallow grooves. The juvenile twigs are typically yellow brown.

*Quercus coccinea* is suitable for larger gardens or parks where it can become very big and be long-lived. Provided the soil is well-drained and is neutral or acidic, the oak can grow on a range of soils. This is a key difference to *Quercus palustris*, which prefers damp soils and is hard to tell apart. For best autumn colour this oak should be planted in full sun. The scarlet oak is valuable as a shade tree, grows quickly and is resistant to dry and hot summers and cold, wet winters. This characterises it as a climate tree. It is tolerant of drought thanks to the deep taproot in particular.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** rounded, pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete | **Flower colour:** golden yellow | **Flowering period:** April - April | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, ovoid, wide, leathery, polished, lacinate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** red-brown, red, scarlet | **Fruits:** acorn | **Fruit colour:** brown, brown-green, green | **Bark colour:** grey-black | **Bark:** slightly furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** yellow-brown | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** deep, extensive, tap root