

# Quercus rubra

## Red Oak, Northern Red Oak, Champion oak



*Quercus rubra* is a large, deciduous tree from the Eastern United States where it grows in different habitats and on a range of soils. Here, it often dominates the canopy with *Fraxinus americana*, *Carya ovata*, *Magnolia acuminata*, *Cornus florida* and *Sassafras albidum*. The red oak was first described in 1753 by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. It can grow approximately 30-35 metres tall. It has a straight trunk and develops a beautiful, round crown shape 15-20 metres across with heavy horizontal branches and forking in the crown.

The leaves of *Quercus rubra* are oval with pointed, triangular lobes on the edges. As they emerge, they get a beautiful red velvet colour, turning matt green in the summer and finally red or yellow-brown in October. The male flowers are small, yellow-green catkins, which appear before or along with the emerging new leaves. The round acorns have a flat cup with short scales. They are eaten by birds and mammals. The bark is grey-brown and retains its smoothness. In older trees grooves develop lengthways.

*Quercus rubra* is the fastest-growing red oak in Europe and is often planted as a major timber producer. However, it is also a suitable tree for large gardens and parks where there is a lot of space for it to develop into a monumental specimen. It grows on various soil types just as long as they have good drainage. In common with other species of oaks, it also puts down a deep taproot from a young age. It is a moderately quick-growing tree, perfectly hardy and also withstands cold winters and dry summers. Whilst tolerant of light pruning it does not respond well.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees, woodland planting stock | **Topiary on stem:** roof-trained, pollard, espalier, pleached | **Topiary:** archway

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Landscape planting, Solid planting, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 25 - 30 m | **Width:** 20 - 25 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

### 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, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** matt green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, lacinate, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-brown, red-brown | **Fruits:** rich fruit yield, acorn | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** furrowed, smooth | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** horizontal branches | **Root system:** tap root