

# Northern Red Oak

*Quercus rubra*

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*Ohio State University*



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Height: 60' to 80' (40' at age 30)

Width: 45' to 65' (30' at age 30)

Hardiness Zone: 5 to 8

Crown: broadly ovate, somewhat open, medium texture

Foliage: 5" to 8", bright reddish or golden brown in fall

Flowers: inconspicuous

Fruit: 3/4 " to 1" acorns, heavy crops every 3 to 5 years

Description: A stately, fast growing tree native to moist sites in the eastern half of the U.S., extending into Canada but not the deep South. Dark gray bark, smooth at first, becomes furrowed with age. Moderately intolerant of shade.

Advantages: This sturdy tree can be used in lawns and parks, and also as a street tree where space is adequate. It tolerates urban conditions along streets with heavy traffic.

Limitations: Growth may be slow initially after transplanting, then becomes fast. Diseases and insects seldom cause serious problems, but it is susceptible to gypsy moth, oak wilt, cankers, anthracnose, borers, and several other pests. Acorns can be a litter problem in some years. Will heave sidewalks.

Site and Culture: Transplants readily, better if B&B and planted in the spring. Prefers well drained, acid soil and full sun. Becomes chlorotic on soils with pH greater than 7.5. Tolerates compacted soil, salt, and pollutants. Prune while the tree is dormant to avoid oak wilt disease vectors.

Cultivars: None generally available.

Pictures and Information:

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