JOB'S NURSERY, LLC
GROWING SINCE 1940

Oak, Northern Red

Quercus rubra

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 45 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Red Oak

Description:

A beautiful and artistic shade tree with a picturesque loosely pyramidal habit of growth and good red fall color; fast growing for an oak, an extremely tough and adaptable tree, best for larger landscapes; prefers loose, slightly acidic soils

Ornamental Features

Oak, Northern Red has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges rose in spring on a tree with a round habit of growth. The spiny lobed leaves turn an outstanding antique red in the fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Oak, Northern Red is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and squirrels to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Oak, Northern Red is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade



Oak, Northern Red
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Oak, Northern Red in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Oak, Northern Red will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 45 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 7 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 300 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!



Oak, Northern Red in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Northern Red Oak starts producing acorns about 25 years of age. The acorns are 3/4-1 inch and can take up to 2 years to mature. The leaves can stay on the tree well into winter. Clean up by blowing or raking everything onto the lawn and mow or bag.