Oak, Northern Pin

Quercus ellipsoidalis



Oak, Northern Pin
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 55 feet

Spread: 40 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Hill's Oak

Description:

An attractive shade tree with a pyramidal-oval habit of growth, pointy leaves and excellent rich red fall color, fast growing for an oak; grows best in loose, slightly acidic soils, but more tolerant of alkaline soils than its popular relative the pin oak

Ornamental Features

Oak, Northern Pin has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges brick red in spring on a tree with an oval habit of growth. The spiny lobed leaves turn an outstanding brick red in the fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up. The furrowed gray bark and silver branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



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

Landscape Attributes

Oak, Northern Pin is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval 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 Pin is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade

Planting & Growing

Oak, Northern Pin will grow to be about 55 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 40 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above 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 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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 Pin Oaks start producing acorns between 15 and 20 years of age. The acorns are about 3/4 inch and can take up to 2 years to mature. The leaves can stay on the tree well into winter and can even stay on tree until new leaves push the old ones off. Clean up by blowing or raking debris onto the lawn and mow or bag.