



Wikipedia is sustained by people like you. Please [log in](#) / [create account](#)

[Article](#) [Discussion](#) [Edit this page](#) [History](#)

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

Search

Interaction

- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

Toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Languages

- [Dansk](#)
- [Deutsch](#)
- [Español](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Hornjoserbsce](#)
- [Italiano](#)

Quercus rubra

[donate](#)

today.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Northern Red Oak** or **Champion Oak**,

Quercus rubra (syn.

Quercus borealis), is

an **oak** in the **red oak** group (*Quercus* section

Lobatae). It is a native of **North America**, in

the northeastern **United States** and southeast **Canada**. It grows

from the north end of the **Great Lakes**, east to **Nova Scotia**,

south as far as **Georgia** and states with good soil that is slightly

acidic. Often simply called "Red Oak", northern red oak is

formally so named to distinguish it from **southern red oak**

(*Q. falcata*), also known as the

Spanish oak.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Uses](#)
- [3 Famous specimens](#)
- [4 Gallery](#)
- [5 References](#)
- [6 External links](#)

Description [\[edit\]](#)

In forests, the northern red oak grows straight and tall, to 35 m (115 ft), exceptionally to 43 m (140 ft) tall, with a trunk of up to 1 m (3 ft) diameter: open-grown trees do not get so tall, but can develop a stouter trunk, up to 2 m (6 ft) in diameter. It has stout branches growing at right angles to the stem, forming a narrow round-topped head. It grows rapidly and is tolerant of many soils and varied situations, although it prefers the glacial drift and well-drained borders of streams. ^[2]

Northern Red Oak



An old specimen

Conservation status

Presumed Extinct	At risk	Secure
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> GX GH </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> G1 G2 G3 G4 G5 </div>	

Secure (TNC)^[1]

Scientific classification

Kingdom: **Plantae**

Division: **Magnoliophyta**

Class: **Rosopsida**

Order: **Fagales**

Family: **Fagaceae**

Genus: *Quercus*

Section: *Lobatae*

Species: *Q. rubra*

Binomial name

Quercus

rubra

L.

- [Latviešu](#)
- [Lëtzebuergesch](#)
- [Lietuvių](#)
- [Magyar](#)
- [Nederlands](#)
- [Norsk \(bokmål\)](#)
- [Polski](#)
- [Suomi](#)
- [Svenska](#)
- [Українська](#)



Detail of mature bark

Under optimal conditions, northern red oak is fast growing and trees may live up to 500 years.^[3] A 10-year-old tree will be 5-6 m (15-20 ft) tall.^[4]

Northern red oak is easy to recognize by its bark, which feature bark ridges that appear to have shiny stripes down the center. A few other oaks have bark with this kind of appearance in the upper tree, but the northern red oak is the only tree with the striping all the way down the

trunk.

- **Bark:** Dark reddish gray brown, with broad, thin, rounded ridges, scaly. On young trees and large stems, smooth and light gray. Rich in tannic acid. Branchlets slender, at first bright green, shining, then dark red, finally dark brown. Bark is brownish gray, becoming dark brown on old trees.
- **Wood:** Pale reddish brown, sapwood darker, heavy, hard, strong, coarse-grained. Checks in drying, but when carefully treated could be successfully used for furniture. Also used in construction and for interior finish of houses. Sp. gr., 0.6621; weight of cu. ft., 41.25 lbs.
- **Winter buds:** Dark chestnut brown, ovate, acute, one-fourth of an inch long.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, seven to nine-lobed, oblong-ovate to oblong, five to ten inches long, four to six inches broad; seven to eleven lobes tapering gradually from broad bases, acute, and usually repandly dentate and terminating with long bristle-pointed teeth; the second pair of lobes from apex are largest; midrib and primary veins conspicuous. Lobes are less deeply cut than most other oaks of the red oak group (except for [black oak](#) which can be similar). Leaves emerge from the bud convolute, pink, covered with soft silky down above, coated with thick white tomentum below. When full grown are dark green and smooth, sometimes shining above, yellow green, smooth or hairy on the axils of the veins below. In autumn they turn a rich red, sometimes brown. Often the petiole and midvein are a rich red color in midsummer and early autumn, though this is not true of all red oaks. Petioles are stout, one to two inches long, often red; stipules caducous.
- **Flowers:** May, when leaves are half grown. Staminate aments four to five inches long, hairy. Calyx four to five-lobed, greenish; stamens four to five; filaments slender; anthers yellow. Pistillate flowers borne on short peduncles; involucre scales broadly ovate, dark reddish-brown; stigmas elongated, bright green.
- **Acorns:** Ripen in the spring of the second year, about 18 months after [pollination](#); solitary or in pairs, sessile or stalked; nut oblong-ovoid with broad flat base, full, with acute apex, one half to one and one-fourth of an inch long, first green, maturing nut-brown; cup, saucer-shaped and shallow, 2cm (0.8 in) wide, usually covering only the base, sometimes one-fourth of the nut, thick, shallow, reddish brown, somewhat downy within, covered with thin imbricated reddish brown scales. Kernel white and very

^[2]

inter: Despite this bitterness, they are eaten by [deer](#), [squirrels](#) and [birds](#).

Uses

[[edit](#)]

The northern red oak is one of the most important oaks for timber production in North America. The wood is of high value. Other related oaks are also cut and marketed as Red Oak, although their wood is not always of as high a quality. These include [black oak](#), [scarlet oak](#), [pin oak](#), [shumard oak](#), [southern red oak](#) and other species in the red oak group. The northern red oak is widely planted and [naturalized](#) also in [Central Europe](#).

Red oak wood grain is so open that smoke can be blown through it from end-grain to end-grain on a flatsawn board.








Famous specimens

[[edit](#)]

- **Ashford Oak** - A very large Northern Red Oak in [Ashford, Connecticut](#). The tree has suffered falling limbs because of its great age. However, this tree is still a sight to behold; the trunk is 8 m (26 feet) in girth and the root-knees are also particularly impressive. The oak is located on Giant Oak Lane off [U.S. Highway 44](#). There are several other large oaks in the area.^{[[s](#)]}
- **Chase Creek Red Oak** - This forest tree is located on a very rich steep slope in [Anne Arundel County, Maryland](#). It is a high-stump [coppice](#) with three leads. It was the state champion oak in Maryland in 2002. The circumference at breast height is 6.7 m (22 feet), the height 41.5 m (136 feet) and the spread 29.9 m (98 feet)^{[[s](#)]}

Gallery

[[edit](#)]

			
Tree in fall color	Young red oak bark	Catkins in spring	Leaf and acorn
			
Foliage	A large Northern Red Oak in New Jersey	Closeup of Bark	

References

[[edit](#)]

- [^] ^a ^b NatureServe (2006), "Quercus rubra", *NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life*, Version 6.1. , Arlington
- [^] ^a ^b Keeler, Harriet L. (1900). *Our Native Trees and How to Identify Them*. New Roak: Charles Scriber's Sons. pp. 349–354.
- [^] http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_quru.pdf
- [^] <http://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/TreeDetail.cfm?id=20>>
- [^] ^a ^b Rucker, Colby B. (February), *Great Eastern Trees, Past and Present* http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/great_eastern_trees.htm, retrieved 2007-05-05

External links

[[edit](#)]

- Flora of North America [Quercus rubra](#)
- Quercus rubra*
- Northern Red Oak*

 Wikimedia Commons has media related to: *Quercus rubra*

images at bioimages.vanderbilt.edu

Reproduction and Early Growth

Categories: [NatureServe Secure species](#) | [Quercus](#) | [Trees of Canada](#) | [Trees of the United States](#) | [Trees of the Eastern United States](#) | [Trees of Michigan](#) | [Trees of humid continental climate](#) | [Trees of North Carolina](#) | [Trees of Kentucky](#) | [Trees of Ohio](#)



This page was last modified on 14 September 2009 at 17:20. Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. See [Terms of Use](#) for details.



Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization. [Privacy policy](#) [About](#)

[Wikipedia Disclaimers](#)