Red oak - *Quercus rubra*

Description: Generally red oak is found on relatively moist sites in deep rich soils although it can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Red oak has high value wood used in a large variety of wood products including flooring and furniture. They provide food for wildlife and are often grown as shade trees for lawns and streets, parks, campuses, golf courses, etc, where space is sufficient.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 5 to 8 inches long, oblong in shape with 7 to 11 bristle-tipped lobes, generally very uniform in shape, dull green to blue-green above and paler below.
Flower: Monoecious; males in yellow-green slender, hanging catkins, 2 to 4 inches long; females are borne on short axiliary spikes, appearing with the leaves in spring.
Fruit: Acorns are 3/4 to 1 inch long and nearly round; cap is flat and thick, covering about 1/4 or less of the acorn, resembling a beret; matures in 2 growing seasons, in late summer and fall.
Twig: Quite stout, red-brown and glabrous; terminal buds multiple, quite large, conical, and covered with red-brown, mostly hairless scales but terminal scales may bear some frosty pubescence.
Bark: On young stems, smooth; older bark develops wide, flat-topped ridges and shallow furrows. The shallow furrows form a pattern resembling ski tracts.
Form: A medium sized to large tree that reaches up to 90 feet tall, develops a short trunk and round crown when open grown, straight with a clear, long bole when grown with competition.

Site requirements:

Although red oak is found in a wide array of locations, it always grows best on lower and middle slopes with northerly or easterly aspects, in coves and deep ravines, and on well-drained valley floors in nature. In a lawn or on the street it prefers moist to well-drained conditions. It is fast growing, easy to transplant, tolerant of urban conditions.

Native Range: Zone 3-8

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WI, WV

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