



ID #: 481

Owner: USDA—Woodward Field Station

Circumference: 155 inches

Height: 69 feet

Average Crown Spread: 95 feet

Total Points: 248



NORTHERN RED OAK (*QUERCUS RUBRA*)



Northern Red Oak is a handsome, popular shade tree with a rounded to broad-spreading crown and brilliant fall foliage. It is tolerant of pollution and compacted soil and can grow up to 2 feet per year on favorable sites. Principal commercial uses are flooring, furniture, millwork, railroad cross-ties, mine timbers, fenceposts, piling, and pulpwood.

Large tree 70 feet high and 1.5 feet in diameter, with narrow to broad spreading crown. **Twigs** slender, dark reddish brown, with star-shaped pith, ending in cluster of pointed dark hairless **buds**.

Leaves elliptical, 4—9 inches long, 3—6 inches wide, divided mostly less than halfway to midvein into 7—11 shallow wavy lobes with few irregular bristle-tipped teeth, usually dull green and hairless above, beneath dull light green with hair tufts in vein angles turning brown or dark red in autumn.

Acorns 1—2, stalkless or short-stalked, egg-shaped, 5/8—1 1/8 inch long, 1/4—1/3 enclosed by broad shallow to deep cap composed of reddish brown blunt, tightly overlapping scales, maturing second year, typically begins bearing acorns at around 25 years.

Bark dark gray or blackish, rough and hard, furrowed into broad scaly ridges; inner bark reddish or pink.

Wood light reddish brown with thin whitish sapwood, ring porous, coarse and uneven textured, heavy, hard, strong. This is the most important species producing red oak lumber.