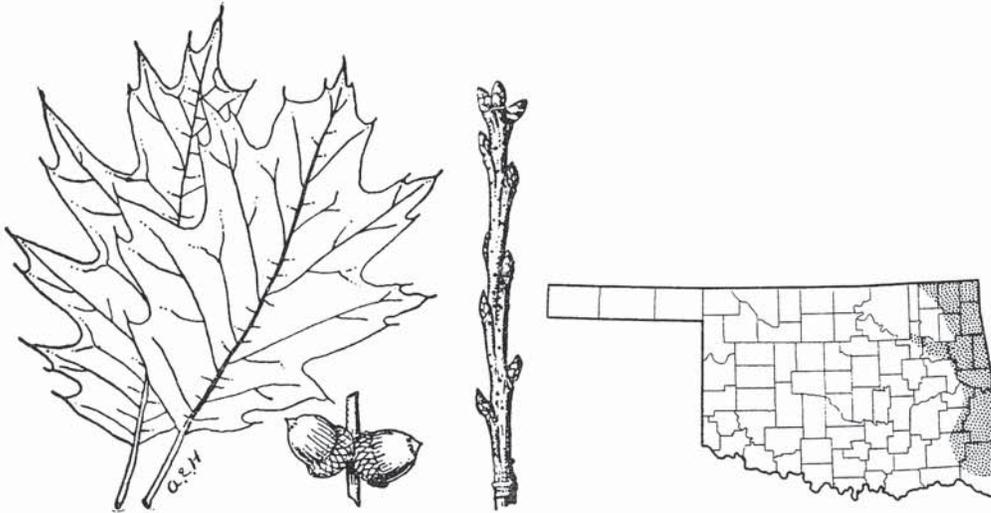


55. NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra L. (*Q. borealis* Michx. f.); red oak.

Large tree 70 ft (21 m) high and 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter, with narrow to broad spreading crown. Twigs slender, dark reddish brown, with star-shaped pith, ending in cluster of pointed *dark red hairless buds*.



Leaves elliptical, 4-9 in (10-23 cm) long, 3-6 in (7.5-15 cm) 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, ⅝-1⅛ in (15-29 mm) long, ¼-⅓ enclosed by broad shallow to deep cup composed of reddish brown blunt, tightly overlapping scales, maturing second year.

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 (sp. gr. .56), hard, strong. This is the most important species producing red oak lumber. Principal uses are flooring, furniture, millwork, railroad crossties, mine timbers, fenceposts, piling, and pulpwood.

Common in oak-hickory, oak-pine, and flood plain forests in e. one-fourth of Okla. Common to abundant in e. half of U.S. (except s. border) and in adjacent s. Canada. Zone 2.

Northern red oak is a handsome, popular shade tree. State tree of New Jersey.