

# Tree of the Month:

## Northern Red Oak *Quercus rubra*



Red Oaks are an American treasure! Native to the eastern U.S., these magnificent, stately large trees are often taken for granted and today are very much under planted and underused. Red Oaks are fantastic street trees for all settings, both rural and urban. Red Oak tolerate compacted soils very well and tolerate urban pollution extremely well.

These beautiful Shade Trees also are an outstanding selection for your home providing needed weather protection in all seasons and can add thousands to your home value as well as your neighbors. Red Oaks are great 'tire swing' trees and 'tree house' trees.

Red Oaks enjoy and prefer acid soils and are hardy trees down to zone 3. They demand of course full sun and they will get it as they reach 75' high and up to 50' wide. The leaves are larger to about 8", dark green and turn variable shades of red through the fall.

Red Oaks are an important timber tree in lumber industry in the U.S.

Here on the nursery we are fortunate enough to have 3 or 4 large specimen Red Oak that we enjoy year round. Often in the summer months you can find our employees enjoying the cool shade during break times and lunch. I can guess these fantastic trees are near 200 years old!

In today's neighborhoods and along many newer streets, choices in Trees to be planted have been made for many of the wrong criteria and has resulted in many lost benefits for us all. This is also the case for many private homes depriving our children and their children of the beautiful neighborhoods that we had become accustomed and have so many fond memories of. I encourage you to broaden your selection of trees to include an American tradition like the Red oak.

This Spring season look to plant a tree that will benefit you, your neighborhood, the world and the next generation. Look to plant a legacy that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

- Don Eaton  
- Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team

