

Quercus coccinea
Scarlet Oak



Quercus coccinea (scarlet oak) is a large, deciduous tree with stunning autumn colour. The scarlet oak is found in eastern parts of the United States where it grows with *Quercus alba, Quercus velutina, Quercus marilandica, Oxydendrum arboreum, Cornus florida* and *Kalmia latifolia*. *Quercus coccinea* was described in 1770 by German botanist and correspondent of Linnaeus, Otto von Münchhausen. The scarlet oak can reach a height of approximately 25 metres and develop a lovely round crown fifteen metres wide.

The leaves of the scarlet oak are oval or egg-shaped with six to nine triangular lobes. They have a red velvet colour when they emerge before turning matt green and glossy. They change colour at the end of October and early November to a dazzling russet brown and scarlet red. The male golden yellow catkins are small and appear before or together with the first new leaves. The acorns have a flat cup and are round. The generally single stem has dark grey to black bark and shallow grooves. The juvenile twigs are typically yellow brown.

Quercus coccinea is suitable for larger gardens or parks where it can become very big and be long-lived. Provided the soil is well-drained and is neutral or acidic, the oak can grow on a range of soils. This is a key difference to *Quercus palustris*, which prefers damp soils and is hard to tell apart. For best autumn colour this oak should be planted in full sun. The scarlet oak is valuable as a shade tree, grows quickly and is resistant to dry and hot summers and cold, wet winters. This characterises it as a climate tree. It is tolerant of drought thanks to the deep taproot in particular.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 20 - 25 m | **Width**: 8 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5B - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, discrete | **Flower colour**: golden yellow | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, obovate, ovoid, wide, leathery , polished, laciniate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: red-brown, red, scarlet | **Fruits**: acorn | **Fruit colour**: brown, brown-green, green | **Bark colour**: grey-black | **Bark**: slightly furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: yellow-brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, extensive, tap root

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