

Red Oak

Quercus rubra



Red oak is native to Aitkin County. 5"-9" leaves have pointed lobes. 1" acorns remain on the tree for two years. Red oak acorns are eaten by deer, black bear, wild turkey, songbirds and many other wildlife species. Seedlings and young branches are browsed by deer, elk, and moose. Red-tailed hawks, owls, and other birds nest in red oak branches. Red oak wood is durable and strong; wood is used for furniture, flooring, structural materials, finishes, and fuel.

Height: 55' to 80'--exceptional trees may grow >100'

Under favorable conditions, red oak grows an extensive root system for the first 2-3 years, and will grow little above ground. After, seedlings will grow over a foot each year until the tree reaches maturity.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Most; sandy, sandy loam, clayey

Soil moisture: Moist to well-drained

Sunlight: Intermediate (mixed sun and shade)

Red oak seedlings should be spaced at least 10' apart.

Maintenance:

Because young red oak grows slowly, encroaching vegetation that may outcompete saplings should be controlled. Consider protecting saplings from rabbit and deer browsing.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Oak wilt
2. Deer and rabbits (seedlings)

