



PLANT FACT SHEET

Quercus rubra L.

GENUS *Quercus* FAMILY Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Northern red oak, Red Oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts, Acorns

Nuts are dried and the bitterness can be removed by boiling in some changes of water. The ground and roasted nuts can be used for coffee.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 25 m tall and spreads to 22 m wide. The trunk is 30-90 cm wide. It has long dark green leaves with pointed lobes. The leaves are 10-20 cm long. There are 7-9 lobes. The base is broadly wedge shaped. There are several large bristle tipped teeth. Each lobe tapers towards the tip. The leaf stalk is 2.5-5 cm long. These turn reddish and yellow-brown in autumn. The fruit are acorns. These are 12-25 mm long and almost as wide. The cup is saucer shaped. It encloses one quarter of the nut.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to eastern North America. It is frost hardy. It cannot tolerate competition and shade. It suits hardiness zones 3-9. Arboretum Tasmania. Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds, cuttings or division of the root.

Harvesting and Seed Production

A fast growing tree. Trees live for 150 years.

NOTES

There are about 600 *Quercus* species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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