

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Get to know your tree:

The northern red oak is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, pinnately lobed leaves with pointed lobes and shallow sinuses. Leaves have bristle tips and leafstalks are often reddish. Fall leaf color is typically a deep red. Flowers are catkins hanging below developing leaves in long strands. Fruits are large acorns with short stalks and shallow, tightly-scaled caps. Bark is dark grey and smooth on younger trees, developing broad, smooth ridges and shallow fissures with age.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter northern red oak provides approximately \$22.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 8 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger northern red oaks, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The acorns of the red oak are a favorite food for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, whitetail deer, raccoons, and black bears.

Acorns are high in tannins, but can be eaten if these tannins are boiled out. Popular preparations of acorns include deep frying and mixing into soups!



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Red oaks grow to heights of 70-100 feet, with a spread of around 50-75 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils. It is tolerant of soil compaction and pollution.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well. Oaks should always be pruned in the dormant season, to avoid attracting beetles that may carry oak wilt disease.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees