



northern red oak

Quercus rubra

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The deciduous northern red oak tree may grow to a height of 80 feet and a trunk diameter of three feet. Its bark is gray-brown, red-brown, black or gray and has dark stripes. The simple leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each leaf has seven to 11 shallow lobes, with each lobe tipped by bristles. Leaves are dark green and smooth or a little hairy above, and paler and smooth or with hairs along the veins below. A leaf may be 10 inches long and up to six inches wide on a two-inch leafstalk. Male and female flowers are separate but are located on the same tree. The tiny flowers do not have petals. Male (staminate) flowers are arranged in drooping catkins while the female (pistillate) flowers are in groups of one to three. Fruits are acorns which may be solitary or in pairs. Each pale brown acorn is ovoid, up to one and one-half inches long and covered less than one-fourth by the cup. The cup is red-brown with tight scales.

BEHAVIORS

The northern red oak may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in rich, upland woods, along river banks and on well-drained slopes. The northern red oak flowers in April

and May as its leaves begin to unfold. Its hard, heavy wood is used for interior finishing, for making furniture, as fuel and for fence posts.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.