

## 15 Red Oak *Quercus rubra*

Red oak is a deciduous broadleaf tree which can grow to 25m and develops a rounded crown. The bark is smooth and silver-grey when young, and develops warts or ridges with age. It is often planted as an ornamental tree for its flaming autumn colour.

### Did you know?

Red oak is native to North America. It was extensively used as a forest tree in nineteenth century Europe and in Britain after 1920.

### Value to wildlife.

Red oak is not as valuable to native wildlife as English and sessile oaks, but its catkins provide pollen for bees and other insects in spring. Its acorns are eaten by birds and small mammals. The rounded crown provides nesting opportunities for birds.

### Mythology and Symbolism

In North America, the red oak is the provincial tree of Prince Edward Island, as well as the state tree of New Jersey.

### Uses of Red Oak.

Red oak is mainly planted as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens for its rich autumn colour. The timber can also be used, but it is not as strong as that of English and Sessile oaks. In North America it is widely used in furniture making, and as lumber for products like fence posts, crates and flooring.

