

Quercus coccinea

Scarlet Oak

If but one oak could grace my garden, this would be the choice. Unfortunately, the species is seldom available in commerce because of its transplanting difficulty. Also, what is often sold as Scarlet Oak is actually *Quercus palustris*, Pin Oak, or *Q. rubra*, Red Oak. The lustrous, almost reflective, dark green summer leaves yield to brilliant reds and scarlets in the fall. Fall coloration may last three to four weeks. The habit is softly pyramidal in youth, becoming upright-spreading and open with age. The ½- to 1-in.-long acorns are covered to about ½ their length in a bowl-like cap. Scarlet Oak is adaptable, but it prospers in moist, well-drained, acid soils. In the wild, it is often found on dry, sandy soils. Ideally, move as a small, 6- to 10-ft.-high container plant or balled and burlapped specimen. Grows 70 to 75 ft. high, 40 to 50 ft. wide. Zones 4 to 8(9). Maine to Minnesota, south to Florida and Missouri.



Quercus coccinea fall color



Quercus coccinea acorns



Quercus coccinea, Scarlet Oak, in fall



Quercus imbricaria, Shingle Oak