

Red Oak

Quercus rubra

-The Red Oak is one of the classic “up north” trees. This tree can grow to be gigantic. It can reach proportions of 100 feet tall, 4 feet in diameter, and a spread over 75 feet wide. Now that is a very big tree.

-Oaks are divided into two subfamilies; the Red Oaks and the White Oaks. The Red Oaks produce acorns every year, but it takes two years for the acorns to mature. The White Oaks (i.e. Swamp White Oak & Bur Oak) also produce acorns every year, but it only takes one year for them to mature. In the extra year it takes for Red Oak acorns to mature, the acorn absorbs a lot more of the natural tannic acid from the tree, thereby making its acorns bitterer. This is why wildlife prefers the acorns of the White Oaks.

-The acorns of the Red Oak are eaten by a wide variety of wildlife, although they are not as prized as the acorns of the White Oaks. So if you want to have your property be a refuge for wildlife, plant some Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Bur Oak. To plant a mixture of White Oaks and Red Oaks is a very smart thing to do. It will guarantee that you have acorns being produced and eaten every year, unless you get two years of hard late spring/early summer frosts in a row.

-Red Oak is the most shade tolerant of Langlade Counties native Oaks. It can live for over 300 years in acidic, well-drained soils. It is also more easily established form planting stock than most other oaks.



**There is trouble in the forest. There is unrest with the trees.
Because the Maples want more sunlight and the Oaks ignore their pleas.**

-Rush