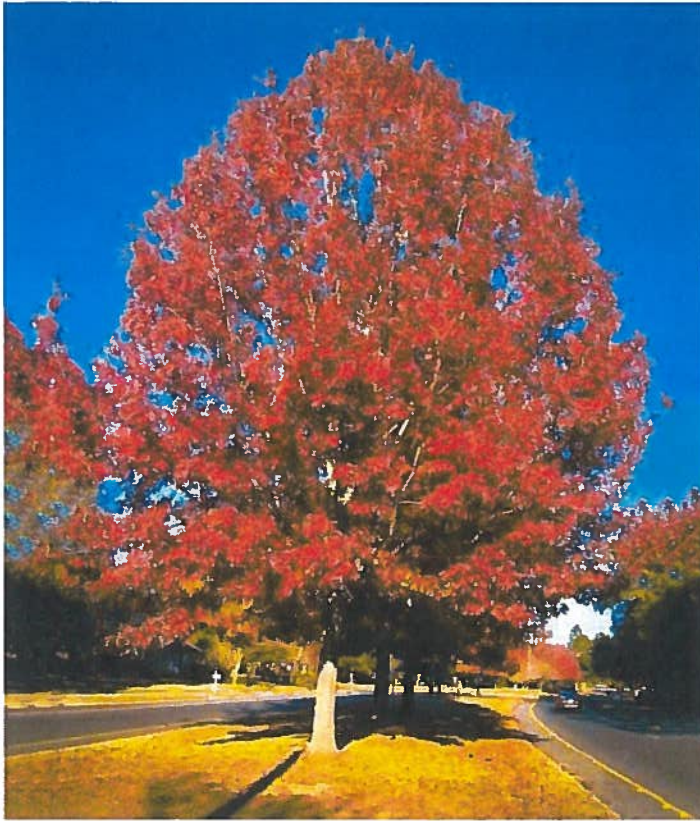


# Red Oak

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## **Tree Type**

This tree is deciduous and will lose its foliage for the winter.

## **Planting**

Plant in an area with lots of space as their roots are very sensitive. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

## **Watering**

Once established, Red Oak has some drought tolerance and shouldn't need much watering. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

## **Pruning**

Only prune in the dormant season (Winter, Early Spring) to avoid the spread of oak wilt disease. Remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches.

## **Preferences**

This tree prefers full sun meaning it needs at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. Red Oak grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils.

## **Attributes**

Red Oaks grow to a height of 60 to 75 ft with a spread of around 45 ft at maturity. They grow at a fast rate with height increases of more than 24 inches per year into a rounded shape. In the fall, the leaves turn russet-red to bright red. Red Oaks tolerate pollution, compacted soil and can live to 500 years. The Red Oak is the most susceptible of all oaks to oak wilt disease so take pruning precautions seriously and don't plant oaks closer than 50 ft to each other to avoid a die-off.

## **Wildlife Value**

Acorns from Red Oaks are the top of the food preference list for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, raccoons and black bear. Deer also browses the buds and twigs in the wintertime. This tree hosts several dozen pollinators, including Juvenal's Duskywing, banded hairstreak, Clymene moth, imperial moth and the rosy maple moth.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

## BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site.  
Find help at [mndnr.gov/treecare](http://mndnr.gov/treecare).

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org) to check for underground lines.

## AFTER PLANTING

### Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

### Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

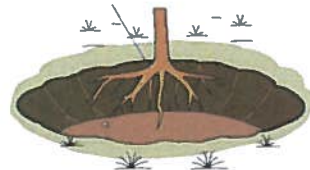
### Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.

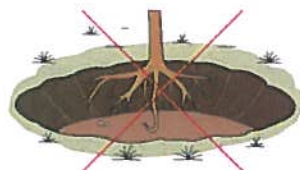


- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.
- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.

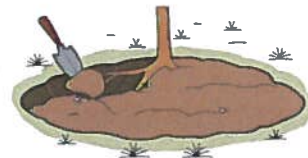
FIRST WOODY ROOT



- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



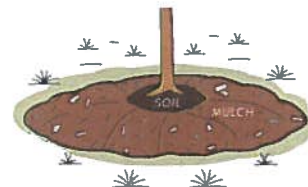
- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.



- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.

- 7 Water entire backfill area.

- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfilled area, keeping mulch away from trunk.



DON'T CREATE A MULCH VOLCANO. IT CAN ROT YOUR TREE.