

Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred Opperman



This month's selection is a native of Illinois and found on many golf courses. It is a fast grower and is easy to find in local nurseries.

Quercus rubra — Red Oak

Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades rather shallowly 7 to 11 lobed, the lobes bristle-tipped, dark green and smooth or somewhat hairy on the upper surface, paler and smooth or often with hairs along the veins on the lower surface.



Buds: Pointed, smooth, reddish-brown, shiny, up to ¼ inch long, scale margin slightly hairy.



Bark: Grayish-brown with distinct flat gray areas intermingled with dark stripes or furrows.

Size: Medium to tall tree, 60 to 80 feet; trunk diameter up to 3 feet; crown broadly rounded, with large spreading branches; trunk straight, often buttressed at the base.

Fruit: Acorns solitary or 2 together, with or without stalks, the nut ovoid, up to 1½ inches long, pale brown, covered less than ¼ by the cup, acorns mature and fall early.

Leaf color: Pinkish to reddish when unfolding, lustrous dark green in the summer changing to russet-red to bright red in fall.

Culture: An easy tree to transplant up to 6 inches in size, prefers sandy loam soil soils which are well drained; withstands the polluted air of cities; full sun; likes an acid soil.

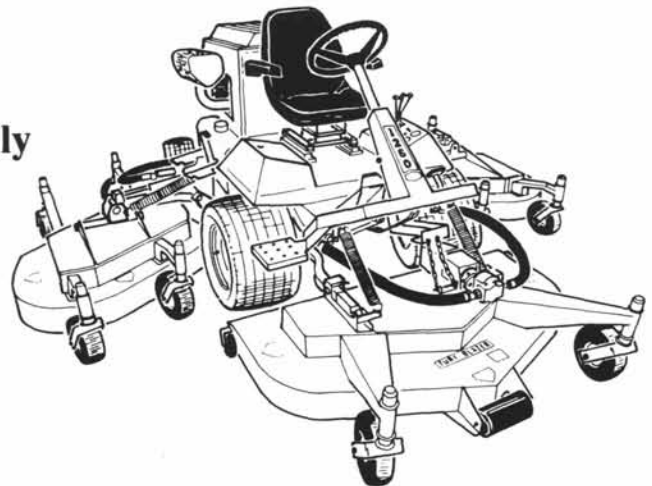
Wood: Hard, heavy, close-grained, light brown in color.

Uses: Valuable landscape tree, interior finishing, furniture cabinets, tools, etc.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr

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