

# SCARLET OAK

Common Name: *Quercus coccinea*<sup>1 2</sup>

**Description:** Scarlet Oak is a native deciduous tree that grows 50 to 80 feet tall and spreads between 45 to 60 feet. It is long-lived, durable and easy to grow. It is found in dry upland forests in the Piedmont and middle to lower mountains of NC and along the western edge of the Coastal Plain. In addition to its value as a timber and wildlife species, scarlet oak is widely planted as an ornamental. Its brilliant red autumn color, open crown texture, and rapid growth make it a desirable tree for yard, street, and park.



**Wildlife Value:** It is an important source of food for many wildlife species, and attracts butterflies, moths, other pollinators, small mammals and songbirds. Acorns are eaten by woodpeckers, blue jays, small mammals, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and black bear.

**Exposure:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil:** Clay, loam (silt) or sand; prefers acidic sandy soils on the dry side but will tolerate moist soils if they are well-drained.



**Zones:** 4A - 9A

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems:** Leaf spots, anthracnose, canker, mildew, rust, rots, galls, and numerous insect problems have been reported. This tree is highly susceptible to oak wilt.

**Care:** Tree develops a strong taproot with relatively few lateral roots, so best not to transplant.

For information about gardening or the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Pender County, contact Tiffanee Boone, Pender County Horticulture & Local Foods Agent at [tiffanee\\_boone@ncsu.edu](mailto:tiffanee_boone@ncsu.edu) or 910-259-1235.

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<sup>1</sup> Resources: NC Plant Database: <http://bit.ly/2Mo6SsT> and USDA Forest Service <https://bit.ly/3olP-BOa>

<sup>2</sup> Compiled by NC State Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Emeritus, Nancy Kurul, January 2021