


scarlet oak [Fagaceae](#) [Quercus](#) *coccinea* Muenchh.  symbol:
QUCO2

vTree

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 3 to 7 inches long, oval in shape with very deep sinuses and bristle-tipped lobes, shiny green above, paler and generally hairless below but may have tufts in vein axils.

Flower: Species is monoecious; males are borne on slender yellow-green catkins; females are borne on very short axillary spikes, both appear with the leaves in spring.

Fruit: Acorns are 1/2 to 1 inch long, with the cap covering 1/2 of the nut, cap scales are shiny, somewhat resembling a varnished black oak cap, scales on edges of cap generally not loose; the tip of the acorn may have concentric rings or fine cracks; maturing in two years and ripening in the fall.

Twig: Moderately stout, red-brown with multiple terminal buds; buds reddish brown, plump, pointed, slightly angled, and covered with a light colored pubescence on the top half.

Bark: On young trees, gray-brown, with smooth streaks; later becoming darker and developing irregular broad ridges and narrow furrows especially near the base.

Form: A medium size tree reaching up to 80 feet tall with generally poor form, irregular crown, and many dead branches. A butt-swell is often noticeable, and often is useful in identification.

Looks like: [pin oak](#) - [black oak](#) - [northern red oak](#) - [Shumard oak](#)



Additional Range Information:
Quercus coccinea is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting scarlet oak.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[Landowner Factsheet](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)
[Horticulture](#)

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