

# The Colonial Woodsmyth

**Common Name:** Red Oak

**Botanical Name:** Quercus coccinea



**Other Common Names:** Black oak, Cucharillo, Encino, Encino negro, Mamecillo, Oak, Roble, Roble amarillo, Roble colorado, Roble encino, Roblecito, Scarlet oak, Spanish oak, Red oak



**Common Uses:** Boat building, Chairs, Cooperages, Decorative veneer, Desks, Domestic flooring, Food containers, Framing, Fuelwood, Furniture, Furniture components, Joinery, Kitchen cabinets, Millwork, Pallets, Paneling, Tables, Veneer, Woodenware, Baskets, Bent Parts, Building materials, Cabinetmaking, Canoes, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Core Stock, Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Excelsior, Figured veneer, Fine furniture, Floor lamps,

Flooring, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Interior construction, Interior trim, Lifeboats, Living-room suites, Office furniture, Parquet flooring, Plain veneer, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rustic furniture, Shipbuilding, Stools, Sub-flooring, Utility furniture, Wainscotting, Wardrobes

**Region:** Mediterranean Sea Region, North America

**Country:** Canada, United States

**Distribution:** The growth range of Scarlet oak in North America is reported to include Ontario, Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. The tree can tolerate various soil types, especially poor and sandy soils. It grows with other oaks and in mixed forests on upland ridges and slopes. Scarlet oak is also reported to be planted in Great Britain as an ornamental because of its scarlet foliage in the fall season.

**Tree Data:** The mature tree tends to be large, with a height of 60 to 80 feet (18 to 24 m) and a diameter of 12 to 18 inches (30 to 50 cm). Heights of 150 feet (45 m) are reported to have been recorded for red oak trees.

**Sapwood Color:** The sapwood is whitish to grayish or pale reddish brown.

**Heartwood Color:** The heartwood is pinkish to light reddish brown or light brown. The wood may also show a pronounced cast of flesh color.

**Grain:** Grain is usually straight and is described as open because of the porous nature of the wood. Plainsawn red oak lumber usually has a plumed or flared plain appearance, while riftsawn boards exhibit a tighter grain pattern and low figuring. Quartersawn red oak boards often have a flaked pattern which is sometimes referred to as tiger rays or butterflies, although the figure is not as prominent as in the white oaks. Variation in color and grain is reported to be

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often pronounced and is reported to be dependent upon the origin of the wood and prevailing growing conditions. Red oaks from upland areas tend to grow more slowly, and generally have a more uniform grain pattern than lowland red oaks.

**Texture:** Texture is reported to be largely dependent upon growth rate. Slow growing Red oak from the north parts of its range is often generally less coarse-textured than its faster-grown counterparts from the southern states.

