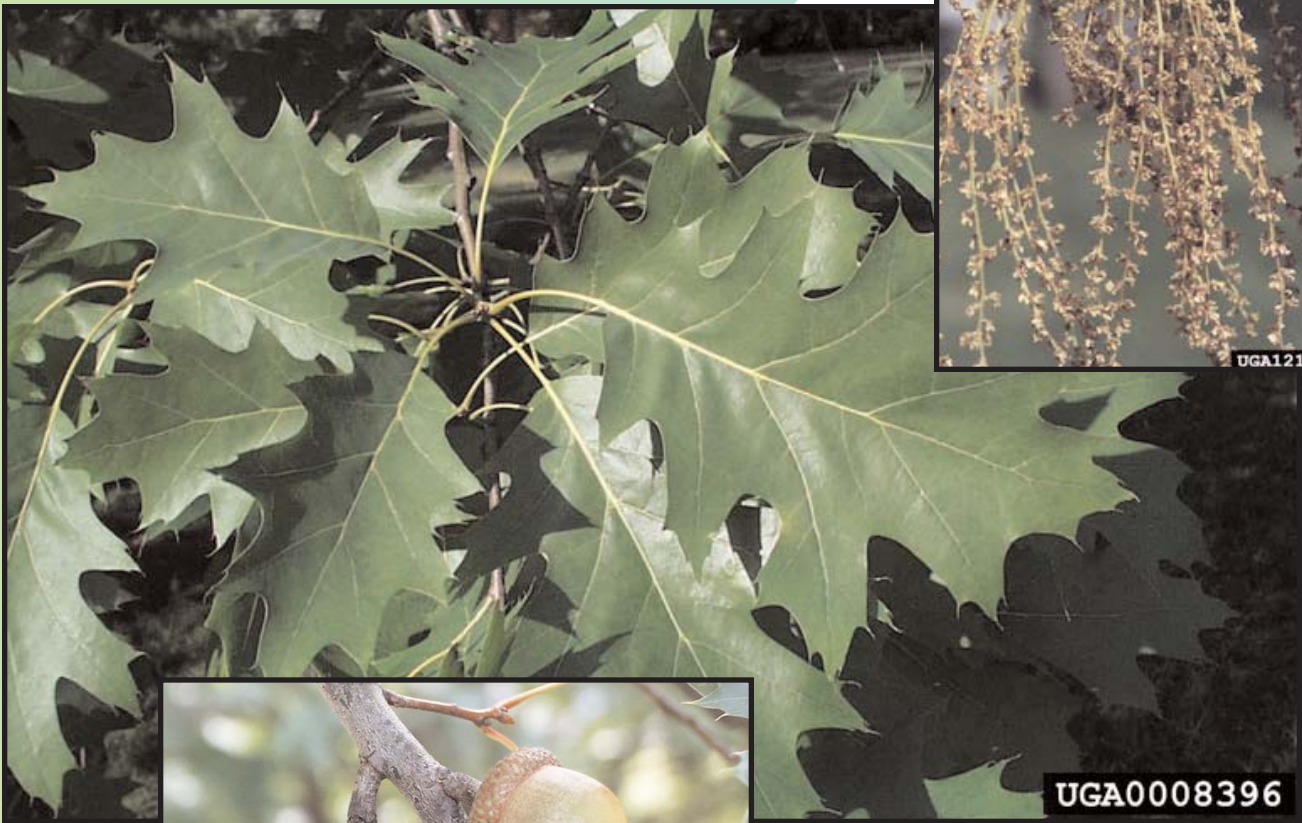


# Northern Red Oak



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# NORTHERN RED OAK

*Quercus rubra* L.

FAMILY: Fagaceae

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



**SIZE:** large tree, 90 -100 feet tall



**LEAF:** simple leaves to 9 inches long with 7 - 11 pointed lobes ;  
deciduous



**FLOWER:** very small; male and female flowers separate - female  
flowers appear in pairs, male flowers hang in clusters called catkins



**FRUIT:** large acorns, 2/3 - 1 1/4 inch long, that sometimes occur in  
pairs on the branch



**BARK:** dark gray with long furrows and ridges



## Where to Look

Red oaks are found in rich moist soils in deciduous  
forests of the mountains and piedmont of Georgia.

### Importance to Humans

The wood of red oak is strong and is used for fencing, railroad ties, construction and fuel. They are also used in the home landscape and parks as shade trees.

### Importance to Wildlife

The acorns are a valuable food source for squirrels and other small mammals. Squirrels and birds also use northern red oaks as nesting sites.