

Southern Red Oak



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

SOUTHERN RED OAK

Quercus falcata Michx.

FAMILY: Fagaceae

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



SIZE: large tree, up to 100 feet tall.



LEAF: simple dark green leaves 6 - 7 inches long with 3 - 5 lobes tipped with sharp points; deciduous



FLOWER: very small; male and female flowers are separate- female flowers are single; male flowers hang in clusters called catkins



FRUIT: acorn, 1/2 inch long, orange-brown.



BARK: dark brown with long ridges and deep furrows.



Where to Look

Southern red oak is found in drier upland forests throughout the state of Georgia. It tolerates drier soil than the northern red oak.

Importance to Humans

Southern Red Oak is used for lumber, furniture and floors. It is also used as a shade tree in parks and lawns. In the past, it was a source for tannins used to tan leather.

Importance to Wildlife

The acorns are an important food source for squirrels and other small mammals. The trees provide cover and nesting sites.