



SCARLET OAK *Quercus coccinea* Muenchh.



Scarlet oak occurs rarely in the southern tip of Maine. It grows on the dry soil of ridges and uplands in York, Cumberland and Androscoggin counties.

In Maine, scarlet oak is a smaller tree than red oak, growing to a height of 30–50 feet and 1–2 feet in diameter. The branches are slender and form an open, narrow head.

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The **bark** on the trunks of old trees is separated into irregular ridges by shallow fissures, and is dark gray with a reddish inner bark.

The **leaves** are alternate, 3–6 inches long with a variable outline. The upper surface is bright green and shiny; the lower is paler and less shiny. Lobes are sharp-tipped. In fall, the leaves turn a deep scarlet, which accounts for the common name of the tree.

The **flowers** appear in May when the leaves are only partly developed.

The **fruit** ripens the second year. The acorn is about ½ inch long, about twice as long as the cup, and is from one-third to one-half enclosed by the cup. It is quite bitter.

The **wood** is hard, strong and heavy, but coarse-grained. It is used to a limited extent for interior finish, shipbuilding, planks and frames, flooring, piling, cross-ties, timbers, pallets, dowels, and firewood.



Scarlet oak acorns have small rings around the tip.



AREA OF OCCURRENCE

MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
Scarlet Oak Circumference: 73" Height: 73' Crown Spread: 40' Location: Yarmouth

