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Quercus coccinea

[Synonyms : *Quercus acuta*]

SCARLET OAK is a deciduous tree. Native to eastern North America it has pale brown catkins and leaves that turn bright red in Autumn.

It is also known as Bastard oak, Black oak, Buck oak, Crimson quercus, *Dub šarlatový* (Czech), North American scarlet oak, Red oak, Spanish oak, and Spotted oak.

This oak can be confused with swamp oak, *Quercus palustris*, but can be distinguished by more shallowly lobed leaves. The latter's leaves have deeper and fewer lobes and swamp oak much prefers bottomland sites. It can also be confused with scarlet oak, *Quercus shumardii*, although this close relative has smaller leaves.

Coccinea means 'scarlet' with reference to the colour of the leaves in Autumn.

The heavy but hard and strong, reddish-brown wood has been used for construction, flooring and interior finishing, as well as for making furniture.

Scarlet oak has been adopted as one of the symbols of the District of Columbia in the United States.