

## SCARLET OAK (*Quercus coccinea*)+

By 1863 the Gardens contained the primary exotic tree collection of Indian Cedar, **Scarlet Oak**, Sycamore, Plane, Poplars and Pine. The future crowning glory was the double avenue of Wellingtonias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) begun in 1863 and extended by fifty chains to the north and thirty chains to the south in 1874. "Wellingtonia" was first cultivated in Australia in 1860. Thomas Lang was selling them from his Ballarat (a week's wages for a skilled labourer).

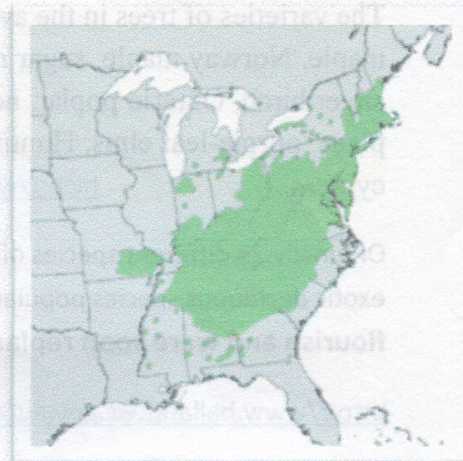
From page 2- 5/06/97 Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information Notes

## *Quercus coccinea*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

*Quercus coccinea*, the scarlet oak, is an [oak](#) in the [red oak](#) section *Quercus* sect. *Lobatae*. The scarlet oak can be mistaken for the [pin oak](#), the [black oak](#), or occasionally the [red oak](#). On scarlet oak the sinuses between lobes are "C"-shaped in comparison to pin oak (*Q. palustris*), which has "U"-shaped sinuses and the acorns are half covered by a deep cap

Scarlet oak is mainly native to the central and eastern United States, from southern Maine west to Wisconsin and Missouri, and south as far as Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia. It occurs on dry, sandy, usually acidic soils. It is often an important canopy species in an oak-heath forest.



## *Quercus coccinea* (Scarlet Oak) [http://www.flemings.com.au/topten\\_details.asp?CULT\\_ID=COCC](http://www.flemings.com.au/topten_details.asp?CULT_ID=COCC)

**Family:** Fagaceae.

**Landscape value:** A handsome, widely planted tree, *Quercus coccinea* is suitable for larger parks, gardens, golf courses and for street planting. Autumn colour can be spectacular.

**Height:** 12 metres.

**Width:** 8 metres.

**Growth rate:** Moderate.

**Habit:** Open and broadly rounded. Pyramidal with pendulous lower branches when young. Eventually becoming a large tree.

**Foliage:** Lustrous, dark green leaves with seven to nine deeply divided, slender lobes. The leaves turn scarlet in autumn (brilliantly so in cooler areas). The leaves usually persist on the branches into winter. The pale, woolly pubescence on the top of the bud helps to distinguish this species from *Q. palustris* (Pin Oak).

**Flowers:** Insignificant. Grey-green to tan male catkins; yellow-green to tan female flower matures to brown acorn. Blooms in late winter to early spring.

**Fruit:** Acorns to 25 mm long, hanging alone or in pairs, with a deep bowl-like cap.

**Bark:** Dark grey. Becoming shallowly furrowed between ridged plates.

**Tolerances:** Air pollution, moderately wet soils, clay and quite dry, sandy areas but prefers a deep, fertile, acid soil that is moist but well drained.

**Comments:** Best when grown in areas with cooler climatic conditions. Can be difficult to transplant but is very tough once established.

## Ballarat Avenue of Honour (WW1), Victoria, Australia

Twenty-three varieties of trees were selected for planting, and these were supplied mainly from the City Council's nurseries. The selection was made after careful consideration and in accordance with experience gained in the plantations of the city streets and parks.

Deciduous trees, native to Europe and North America, do particularly well in Ballarat, proving free from insect or fungus disease, hardy, and long-lived. Such important factors naturally carried great weight in selection.

The varieties of trees in the avenue are:-- American ash, English ash, mountain ash, North American maple, Norway maple, sugar maple, broadleaf maple, English maple, alder trees, scarlet oak, lime trees, silver birch, Ontario poplar, new silver poplar, black Italian poplar, Lombardy poplar, tulip trees, Oriental plane, purple-leaf elms, Huntingdon elms, Canadian giant elms, Montana Dovei elms, and deciduous cypress. [http://www.swvic.org/ballarat\\_avenue\\_of\\_honour.htm](http://www.swvic.org/ballarat_avenue_of_honour.htm)

Originally 23 different species of trees were planted in the Avenue. These were mostly the traditional 'European' or exotic deciduous species popular at the time..... **Many of the original species used in the Avenue did not flourish and were soon replaced with mostly Elms and Poplars.**

[http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/media/3029034/arch\\_of\\_victory\\_and\\_ave\\_of\\_honour\\_finalweb.pdf](http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/media/3029034/arch_of_victory_and_ave_of_honour_finalweb.pdf)



Late in 2015 a new scarlet oak sapling was planted in the gardens area. *"It's not in the 'Central' Botanical Gardens but at the north end of Fairyland, just south of the bluestone pillar & picket fence, between Lake Wendouree & Wendouree Pde."* (Donna Thomas)

