

## Tree of Interest

### SOUTHERN RED OAK

*Quercus falcata*



**Form-** Large rounded tree with a decurrent growth habit. Heights easily reach 50-80 feet and can become 1 to 2 ½ feet wide.

**Description-** Leaves are 4-8” long and 2-6” wide. Elliptical form helps to develop a deeply divided single end lobe. 3-5 lobes with 1-3 bristles at the end of each lobe. Has a bell shaped base with shiny green above and brownish below. The brownish underside makes this tree easy to identify in hot summer months as the tree takes a brownish color in relation to other oaks.

Dark grey bark with deep and broad ridges. Acorns are up to 5/8” in length with a tapered cup covering the top 1/3 of the acorn, red oaks develop mature acorns biannually.

**Habitat-** Dry, sandy loam and clay loam soils of uplands in mixed forests throughout the state.

**Pests and Disease Problems-** Resistant.

**Notes-** Some association between the Southern Red Oak and the Oak Gall Wasp. Drought hardy,



but can be susceptible to severe drought due to possible chemical reactions in the leaves of the tree which may not allow the stomata to close appropriately. Commonly known as a “Red Oak” and also as “Spanish Oak”, the Southern Red has a variety known as Cherrybark Oak. One of the largest known specimens of the *falcata* specific epithet is found in Sudley, Maryland which is over 23 feet in circumference, 105 feet tall, and has a 129 foot wide canopy diameter.



All pictures were obtained from forestryimages.com. (Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org)