

Quercus alba

Common Name: white oak 
 Type: Tree
 Family: Fagaceae
 Native Range: Eastern United States
 Zone: 3 to 9
 Height: 50.00 to 80.00 feet
 Spread: 50.00 to 80.00 feet
 Bloom Time: May
 Bloom Description: Yellowish-green
 Sun: Full sun
 Water: Dry to medium
 Maintenance: Medium
 Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Street Tree
 Flower: Insignificant
 Fruit: Showy
 Tolerate: Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Sha
 Rocky Soil, Black Walnut

Culture

Best grown in rich, moist, acidic, well-drained loams in full sun. Adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions with good drought tolerance.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Quercus alba, commonly called white oak, is a large deciduous Missouri native tree of the white oak group. It typically occurs in dry upland slopes and ledges as well as lowland valleys and ravines throughout the State. Grows to 50-80' tall in cultivation and taller (to 100') in the wild. Pyramidal when young, but matures into a substantial tree with a wide-spreading, rounded crown. Insignificant yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring shortly after the leaves emerge. Fruits are oval acorns (to 3/4" long) with warty-scaled cups. Leaves (4-9" long) have 7 to 9 deep rounded lobes. Leaves emerge pinkish in spring, but mature to dark green. Variable fall color ranges from uninteresting browns to quality shades of dark red. White oak grows over much of eastern North America and is an important hardwood timber tree. Widely used in landscapes, but slow growth rate and large size has somewhat tempered its popularity.

White oak is the Illinois State Tree.

Genus name comes from the classical Latin name for oak trees.

Species name of *alba* means white in reference to the light ash-gray bark.

Problems

Potential diseases include oak wilt, anthracnose and oak leaf blister. Potential insects include scale, oak skeletonizer, leaf miner and lace bug.