



Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

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Summary:

Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf Height: 40 feet

Spread: 60 feet

Shape: Spreading

A massive and majestic shade tree with evergreen foliage that is bright olive-green when new and changes to a glossy, dark green when mature.

Plant Needs:

Zone: 7b to 10

Light: Partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Wet to moist to average

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay

pH Range: 3.7 to 7.0

Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, and specimen plant.

Planting Notes:

Transplant small size trees.

Tolerates soils ranging from light sand to heavy and compact silt and clay. Tolerates a wide range of moisture conditions.

Tolerates salt spray.

Requires large area for branches and roots to spread.

Care:

Prune when young to establish main branches.

Problems:

No serious pest or disease problems.

Gall insect is more unsightly than damaging. Susceptible to root rot in coastal areas.

Alternatives:

Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Quercus virginiana*: no important cultivars.

Comments:

An evergreen member of the oak family, the live oak is cold hardy in the Tidewater area and as far north as Williamsburg.

A magnificent shade tree; however, its large, wide-spreading, horizontal branches make it inappropriate for small properties.

The acorns of the live oak are eaten by many animals.

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