All about Oaks

PLANTNEBRASKA

Native Nebraska Oaks



Black oak, *Quercus velutina* (R)
Large growing native similar to red oak; leaves are glossy and dark green above with velvety undersides; nice red-maroon fall color; 40-50’ x 40-50’.



Blackjack oak, *Quercus marilandica* (R)
Shorter and slower-growing than most oaks; distinctive trilobed leaves; can take on a very natural look with age; tough and underutilized; good fall color; 30-40’ x 25-35’.



Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* (W)
The most common native oak; large, tough and reliable; thick, corky bark; twigs can have very corky ridges; large, fat, fan-shaped leaves; named for large acorns with bur-like fringes; 50-70’ x 50-70’.



Chinkapin oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii* (W)
Narrow, chestnut-like leaves; flaky, gray-yellowish bark with maturity; tolerates high pH soils; should be planted more; 40-60’x 30-50’.



Dwarf chinkapin oak, *Quercus prinoides* (W)
Variable habit from shrubby to tree form; prolific acorn producer; can have nice yellow fall color; national champion grows near Salem, Nebraska; 10-25’ x 10-20’.



Red oak, *Quercus rubra* (R)
Very reliable native; rounded habit; 7-9 shallowly lobed leaves are dull-green in summer with nice red fall color; 50-60’ x 45-55'.



White oak, *Quercus alba* (W)
Native to eastern Great Plains and extreme southeast Nebraska; similar in stature to bur oak – majestic and inspiring; light gray, scaly bark; fewer acorns; good fall color; 55-65’ x 55-60’.

R = belongs to red oak group. Acorns mature over two seasons and leaves typically have pointed lobes.

W = belongs to white oak group. Acorns mature in one season and leaves typically have rounded lobes.

All about Oaks

PLANTNEBRASKA

Native U.S. Oaks



Bear oak, *Quercus ilicifolia* (R)
Shrubby, multi-stem habit; native to northeastern US; leaves similar to red oak; slow grower; 10-20’ x 10-20’.



Cherrybark oak, *Quercus pagoda* (R)
Similar to red oak but with rough, scaly bark that can resemble black cherry when mature; prefers moist, fertile soils; can be fast growing; 40-60’ x 35-50’.



Chestnut oak, *Quercus montana* (W)
Bright green, chestnut-like leaf; prefers moist, fertile soils; distinctive ridged bark somewhat resembles an alligator’s back when mature; 45-60’ x 40-50’.



Gambel oak, *Quercus gambelii* (W)
Native to southern Rocky Mountains; variable multi-stem habit – can be very shrubby in dry, difficult locations and more treelike on better sites; very drought tolerant; 15-25’ x 10-20’.



Northern pin (Hill’s) oak, *Quercus ellipsoidalis* (R)
Similar to pin oak but less prone to iron chlorosis; native to northern US; good red/maroon fall color; 40-50’ x 35-45’.



Overcup oak, *Quercus lyrata* (W)
Large bur oak-like leaves; acorns nearly covered by cap; 40-50’ x 35-45’.



Pin oak, *Quercus palustris* (R)
Beautiful, tall, upright habit with descending lower branches; good fall color; heavy acorn producer; very prone to iron chlorosis and should only be planted on acidic soils (pH <7.0); 50-70’ x 40-50’.



Post oak, *Quercus stellata* (W)
Tough, corky bark; medium rounded tree; distinctive, cruciform leaves; native into southern Iowa and eastern Kansas; 25-35’ x 25-35’.

All about Oaks

PLANTNEBRASKA

Native U.S. Oaks (cont'd)



Scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea* (R) Similar to pin oak; scarlet fall color; avoid high pH soils; 45-60' x 40-50'.



Shingle oak, *Quercus imbricaria* (R) Distinctive narrow, smooth-edged leaves that are held through winter; tan-yellow fall color; 40-50' x 35-45'.



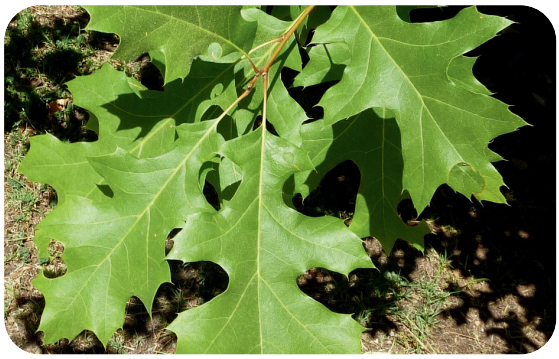
Shumard oak, *Quercus shumardii* (R) Very similar to red oak in habit and leaf shape; good heat and drought tolerance; reliable red fall color; should be planted more; 4-50' x 40-50'.



Swamp chestnut oak, *Quercus michauxii* (W)Similar to chestnut oak; native to wetter soils of southeastern US; scaly-grayish bark similar to white oak; 40-50' x 40-50'.



Swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor* (W) One of the most popular oaks for planting; attractive glossy leaves with silvery underside; good for wet or dry soils; can be chlorotic on high pH soils; 60' x 50'



Texas red (Buckley) oak, *Quercus buckleyi* (R) Related to shumard oak but leaves smaller and more glossy; native to southern Great Plains; very good drought tolerance; bright red fall color; 25-40' x 20-35'.



Wavyleaf oak, *Quercus xundulata* (W) A naturally occurring hybrid of *Q. gambelii* and *Q. turbinella* from Rocky Mountains and SW US; semi-evergreen leaves; typically multi-stem and shrubby; 10-20' x 10-20'.

All about Oaks

PLANTNEBRASKA

Non-native Oaks



English oak, *Quercus robur* (W) Similar to white oak but with smaller, glossy-green leaves and long, abundant acorns; habit can vary from round and spreading to upright; tough and reliable; 60’ x 50’.



Japanese Emperor (Daimyo) oak, *Quercus dentata* Similar to *Q. mongolica*; large, thick, fuzzy leaves held through winter, making it somewhat prone to ice damage when young; 25-40’ x 20-40'.



Liotung oak, *Quercus liaotungensis* Native to China and similar to Mongolian oak; large leaves; 30-40’ x 30-40’.



Mongolian oak, *Quercus mongolica* (W) Similar to bur oak in habit and adaptability though doesn’t grow as large; chestnut-like leaves; performing well in N. Dakota; 40-50’ x 34-45'.



Sawtooth oak, *Quercus acutissima* Fast-growing oak from Asia; long, narrow leaves with sawtooth-like edges; upright growth when young; distinctive frilled acorn caps; 50-60’ x 40-50’.

Oak Hybrids, Varieties & Cultivars

Black-blackjack (Bush) oak, *Quercus xbushii* (*Q. marilandica x velutina*): Very similar to blackjack oak; occurs naturally in southeast Nebraska; 20-30’ x 20-30’.

Bur-chinkapin (Deams) oak, *Quercus xdeamii* (*Q. macrocarpa x muehlenbergii*): Occasionally found in southeast Nebraska; a nice specimen grows on Peru State College campus; 40-60’ x 40-50’.

Bur-gambel oak, *Quercus macrocarpa x gambelii*: Great heat and drought tolerance makes it a good choice for western Great Plains; abundant acorns at a young age (4yrs); 25-40’ x 25-45’.

All about Oaks

PLANTNEBRASKA

Oak Hybrids, Varieties & Cultivars (con't)

Bur-swamp white (Schuette) oak, *Quercus xschuettei* (*Q. bicolor x macrocarpa*): Vigorous habit; glossy, dark green leaves resist lace bugs; good acorn production; 50-60' x 50-60'.

Bur-white (Bebbs) oak, *Quercus xbebbiana* (*Q. alba x macrocarpa*): Great looking tree; very hardy and a vigorous grower; good fall color on some trees; 50-60' x 50-60'.

English Oak Cultivars
'Clemons' (Heritage) oak, bur-English oak cross: *Quercus xmacdanielii* (*Q. macrocarpa x robur*): Vigorous grower with abundant acorn production; glossy leaves resist mildew; 50-60' x 30-40'.

'Crimson Spire' oak, white English cross, *Quercus xbimundorum* (*Quercus alba x robur*): Possesses a narrow growing habit and red fall color; 40' x 15'.

'Regal Prince' (Ware) oak, swamp white-columnar English, *Quercus xwarei* (*Q. robur var fastigiata x bicolor*): Regal Prince Oak has a very attractive, upright habit with glossy foliage.

Oaks with Potential

Chinese cork oak, *Quercus variabilis*: Leaves and habit similar to sawtooth oak; corky bark; 40-60' x 35-55'.

Downy oak, *Quercus pubescens:* Attractive small, leathery leaves that emerge pubescent, thus its common name; short, irregular habit; doing well in Waverly; 20-30' x 20-30'.

Hungarian oak, *Quercus frainetto*: Native to Balkan Peninsula; white oak family; attractive glossy leaves with silvery undersides; doing well in Waverly; 35-45' x 30-40'.

Mohr (shin) oak, *Quercus mohriana*: Native to New Mexico, west Texas/Oklahoma; shrubby, multi-stem habit; distinctive leaves with silvery pubescent undersides; tolerates dry, alkaline soils; 15-25' x 10-20'.

Oriental white oak, *Quercus aliena*: Little-known oak from China; glossy, chestnut-like leaves; nice fall color; doing well in Waverly; 40-50' x 30-40'.

Shrub live oak, *Quercus turbinella* (W): Shrubby habit; semi-evergreen; best for western Great Plains; 15' x 15'.

Southern red oak, *Quercus falcata*: Somewhat similar to red oak but with distinctive turkey-foot like leaves that have wider lower lobes; maroon fall color; good on dry sites; does well in eastern Kansas; 30-40' x 30-40'.

Water oak, *Quercus nigra*: Very distinctive, tip-heavy leaves somewhat like blackjack oak; prefers moist, well-drained soils; 30-40' x 30-40'.

Nuttall oak, *Quercus nuttallii*: Similar to shumard oak; native to lower Mississippi drainage basin; tolerates poorly drained soils; red fall color; 40-60' x 35-50'.

Turkey oak, *Quercus cerris* (I): Native to Europe and Asia Minor, including Turkey; leaves similar to white oak; tolerates alkaline soils; 40-60' x 40-50'.

Willow oak, *Quercus phellos*: Narrow willow-like leaves; pin-oak like habit and siting requirements; 45' x 40'.