

Tree of Interest

WHITE OAK

Quercus alba

Form- Long lived tree, can grow to 100 feet tall and to 5-6 feet in diameter. Has a wide spreading crown with numerous horizontal branches.

Identification- Bark is light gray with shallow furrows, turning to scale-like ridges or plates further up the tree stem. Twigs are slender and gray to a reddish-green color. The pith is star shaped and buds are reddish-brown and hairless. Leaves are obovate to elliptical and 4-8 inches long by 4 inches wide. Has deep sinuses with 5-9 lobes that are widest beyond the middle and taper towards the base. Bright green above and grayish-green below. Acorns are 3/8" to 1 1/4" long with 1/4 of the acorn topped by the cap.



Habitat- Moist well-drained uplands and lowlands. White Oaks are shade intermediate, this means that the tree can survive in part shade to full sun.

Pest and Disease Problems- Resistant to all pests except gypsy moth. White Oak is a host for bacterial leaf scorch, and if stressed can be susceptible to chestnut borers.

Notes- Can become very large and live to be a couple of hundred years old. Caution is needed when considering placement on sites due to growth characteristics. Tall trees such the White Oak should not be planted under or immediately adjacent to power lines. During construction activities, **no** traffic should be allowed underneath the drip line of the tree

(underneath the specific tree's braches and limbs). White Oaks are also referred to as "Stave Oaks" because of their usefulness for whiskey barrels by companies like Tennessee's Jack Daniels Distillery. Both hard and soft mast is the favorite foods of whitetail deer, squirrels, and birds.

