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Quercus velutina

Leaf Color Green

Fall Color Yellow

This plant has attractive fall colors.

Fruit Color Brown

The fruit is dry, oval and round.

Environment

This plant tolerates drought and a little salt.

This plant will grow in very dry soil.

Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.

The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less than 6.8 to 7.7) soil.

Landscape Uses

- Street tree

Quercus velutina

Black Oak

Fagaceae (Beech)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

Type Tree, woody plant

Hardy range 3B to 8A

Height 50' to 75' / 15.20m to 22.80m

Spread 35' to 50' / 10.60m to 15.20m

Growth rate Slow

Form Oval

Exposure Full sun

Persistence Deciduous

Bloom Color Brown

Native Habitat

Eastern US from Maine to eastern Oklahoma to panhandle Florida in moist, rich soil, occasionally in drier sites.

Additional Notes

This plant typically grows with one trunk.

This plant has low flammability.

Co-national champions are 113 x 137 in Michigan and 84 x 95 feet in Connecticut.

Culture Notes

The tree is often found on well-drained slopes and in dry sandy soil on ridges. Not used in landscaping.

Existing trees are often left near new homes and other buildings in new developments. Roots damaged by construction equipment decay quickly. This can leave the plant with few supporting roots in the years following construction despite a green canopy. The tree could fall over as a result. In addition, branches that are suddenly exposed to unlimited light when nearby trees are removed begin to grow rapidly. As a result, they could become too long and break. Keep them shortened with reduction cuts to help prevent breakage.

Wood weighs about 61 pounds per cubic foot. Oak wood is considered ring porous to semi-ring porous.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees, to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Prune the

tree so trunks and branches will not rub each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark. This reduces the likelihood of the main branch splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

Diseases: Oak wilt can kill trees. Most oaks are considered resistant to verticillium wilt. Bacterial leaf scorch causes leaf scorch, premature browning, and gradual decline of trees. There is often a yellow line or hollow separating the scorched tissue from green tissue. This disease can be devastating, especially if a street or property is planted in a monoculture. Infection probably spreads by root grafts and certainly by leafhoppers, spittlebugs and sharpshooters. Pruning tools are not likely to spread the disease. Neither fertilization nor pruning have any effect on treatment of the disease. There may be chemical treatment that can reduce symptoms but nothing will cure an infected tree. Bacterial leaf scorch can kill trees in several years. Chipped branches from infected trees can be used as mulch without danger of spreading the disease.

This genus is sensitive to fluoride air pollution, sources of which include glass and brick manufacturing plants and other facilities that heat or treat with acid materials containing fluoride. Symptoms due to fluoride injury are more prominent on the side of the plant facing the pollution source. In deciduous plants, symptoms include leaf browning along the margins of the leaves. A dark brownish band may appear along the boundary between healthy green tissue and the affected brown tissue. Eventually, the entire leaf may turn brown. In conifers, the tips of the current year's needles turn reddish brown. Older needles are typically unaffected. If you suspect fluoride has injured this plant, look in the neighborhood for gladiolus plants. They serve as indicator plants for fluoride air pollution damage because they are very sensitive to it. Other sensitive plants include ash, maple, oak, white pine, poplar, and redbud. Plants that resist injury include birch, flowering cherry, dogwood, hawthorn, American linden, juniper, pear, spirea and sweet gum.

Special Notes

This plant has aggressive roots.

