

Let's Talk Oak Trees

Oh how I love a tree, they are just good for the heart and soul. They have lived here since God made the universe. We need to have them and they love helping us with all the things they. It is our responsibility to care for them in the proper way. This is very easy to do, do not plant to close together, do not pile mulch up around them, give them plenty of water for the first few years after planting, and keep that weed-eater away from the bottom of the truck.

The great Oak is so beautiful she is always the top pick. Southern Red, Laurel, Overcup, Live, Nuttall and Shumard are the ones that do best for us.

Southern Red is very large, will grow in difficult places; her growth is 70 to 80 feet and wide. You would have to have very large area for her to grow as she would like.

I love the Overcup, wow at the size of those acorns, about an inch, I love it. Her growth is fast and uniform. The pyramidal-oval shade is great to have rounding at as she ages. Easy to transplant, will take wet to dry soil and towers to around 50 feet and wide. The Shumard is around 60 feet tall and her leaves turn yellow-bronze in the fall, not the red that it would if we lived further north. Deer love to eat the large acorn and she will also take the drought very well along with wet soil. This is a favorite of Auburn's evaluations of shade trees. For a fast grower, full canopy at an early age, wet to dry soil and very easy to transplant, try the Nuttall. Will be pyramidal while she is young rounding off with age and we should get a nice red in the fall from this one. Laurel is a semi-evergreen, does ok in sand and clay soil, smaller acorn than the others and grows round 60 feet tall. Her leaves are some of the last to fall in the winter. The old favorite is of course the Live Oak, she stay green year round, very finicky when planted but plenty of water will fix that. She loves a slow drip for about a year to really do well. Will take sun or shade and most types of soils. We have the Highrise planted downtown in some of the grates, they grow upright. The only thing I do not like is they grow very slow.

Oaks are just a part of the South, just remember to give them plenty of room to grow. A 5 to 7 gallon tree is the best to plant, they will grow off faster. Every landscape should have some oaks to put that swing or rockers under and sit back and enjoy life!

Happy Tree Planting!

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