



## *Quercus nuttallii* Nuttall Oak<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

This native North American deciduous tree is capable of reaching 100 to 120 feet in height but is more often seen at 60 to 80 feet (Fig. 1). The dull, dark green, lobed leaves are four to eight inches long and two to five inches wide. The small, reddish-brown acorns are 0.75 to 1.25 inches long. The bark is dark, grey/brown, and divided into broad, flat plates.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Quercus nuttallii*

**Pronunciation:** KWERK-us nuh-TALL-ee-eye

**Common name(s):** Nuttall Oak

**Family:** *Fagaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6B through 8 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Uses:** large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 60 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** round

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** medium

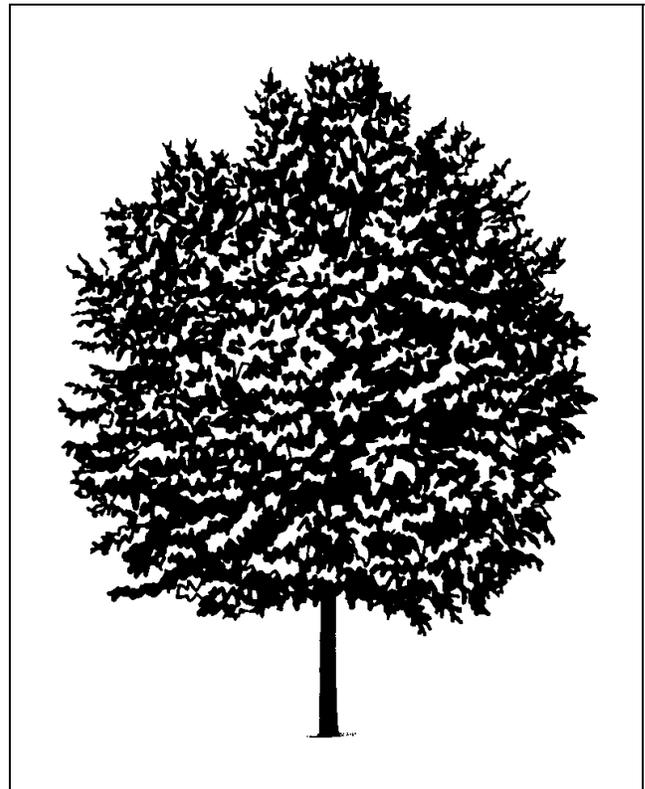


Figure 1. Middle-aged Nuttall Oak.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed; parted

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-554, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** red

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** brown

**Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval; round

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches; .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels and other mammals; inconspicuous and not showy; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown; green

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

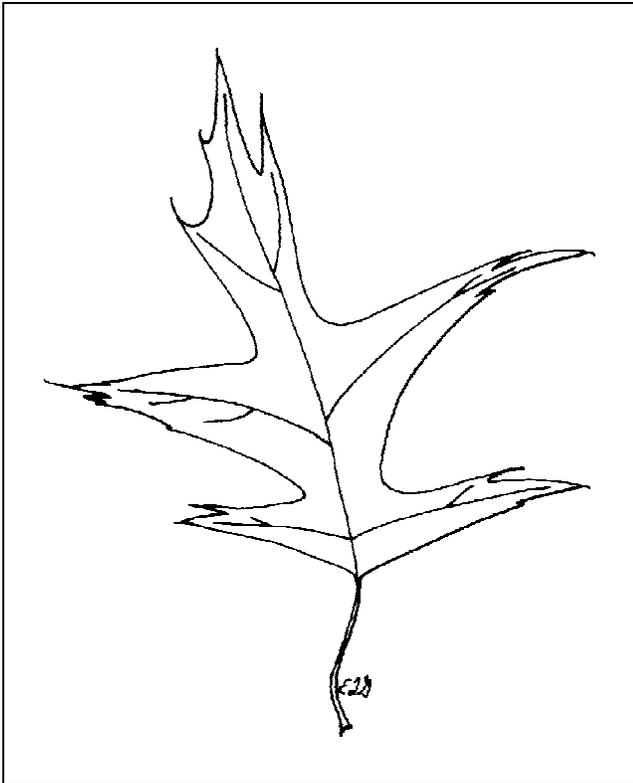
### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Nuttall Oak.

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** unknown

### **USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Nuttall Oak should be grown in full sun on any soil and is very tolerant of poorly-drained, wet sites. This should make it well suited for the soil conditions found at many urban sites. If landscape nurseries grew this tree more often, it would be specified for poorly-drained urban and suburban landscape sites.

Propagation is by seed.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases of major concern.