Nuttall Oak

Quercus nuttallii

Height: 80 feet

Spread: 50 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Nuttall's Oak, Red Oak, Red River Oak

Description:

A beautiful and artistic shade tree producing a wide spreading, rounded crown,with beautiful red fall color; best for larger landscapes; tolerates clay or wet soils, prefers loose, slightly acidic soils; adaptable to urban environments

Ornamental Features

Nuttall Oak has dark green foliage with light green veins which emerges burgundy in spring on a tree with a round habit of growth. The glossy lobed leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Nuttall Oak is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting squirrels to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Nuttall Oak is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade



Nuttall Oak
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Nuttall Oak foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Nuttall Oak will grow to be about 80 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 50 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 7 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 300 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.