Wavy-leaved Oak

Quercus undulata



Wavy-leaved Oak foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Wavy Leaf Oak, Wavyleaf Oak

Description:

A slow growing shrub or small tree that eventually forms a dense mounded habit; leathery, blue-green leaves are toothed with wavy margins; small brown acorns in late summer to fall; may be semi-evergreen in a protected site

Ornamental Features

Wavy-leaved Oak has attractive bluish-green foliage with grayish green undersides which emerges chartreuse in spring on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The small serrated oval leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color. It produces brown acorns with olive green blush from mid summer to mid fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Wavy-leaved Oak is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 shrub 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 birds and squirrels to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Wavy-leaved Oak is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Wavy-leaved Oak will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 150 years or more; think of this as a heritage shrub for future generations!

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.