Oak, Shingle

Quercus imbricaria



Oak, Shingle
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 60 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Laurel Oak

Description:

A beautiful and rugged shade tree with a broad, rounded habit of growth and rather non-oak-like leaves, best for larger landscapes where it has ample room to grow; strong and adaptable, prefers loose, acidic soils but quite tolerant

Ornamental Features

Oak, Shingle has dark green deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring on a tree with a round habit of growth. The glossy narrow leaves turn coppery-bronze in fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.



Oak, Shingle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Oak, Shingle is an open 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 birds and squirrels to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Oak, Shingle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade

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Oak, Shingle
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Oak, Shingle will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 60 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. 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 quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Shingle Oak starts producing acorns about 20 years of age. The acorns are 1/2 to 2/3 inch and can take up to 2 years to mature. The leaves can stay on the tree well into winter. Clean up by blowing or raking debris onto the lawn and mow or bag.