

Swamp White Oak *Quercus bicolor*

Swamp white oak is planted on highway rights-of-way and is frequently used as a shade tree for large lawns, golf courses, parks, and naturalized areas. The crown shape and bi-colored leaves (dark above, lighter beneath) are attractive features; fall color is yellow, with occasional red-purple. The trees can grow well in areas that are dry, poorly drained and wet, or even occasionally flooded, and they will tolerate significant soil compaction. Trees of swamp white oak provide cover for birds and mammals. The acorns are sweet and are an important food for wildlife such as squirrels, mice, white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, and a variety of birds, including ducks and turkey.

Height: 65 to 80 ft. at maturity. Very old trees can be 100 ft.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): 24-48 in. average.

Crown Shape/Spread: This species has an open, irregularly shaped crown and a canopy spread that can reach 50-60 ft.

Leaf: Leaves are deciduous, alternate, broad and ovoid, ranging from 3-7 in. long and 1-1/4-4 in. wide. Fall foliage is brown, yellow-brown, or sometimes reddish.

Flowers: Flowering occurs in May–June during early development of the leaves, while fruiting occurs in August–October.

Fruit: Acorns are 3/8 to 1-1/4 in. in length with an oblong shape and take 12 months to mature.

Landscape Requirements: Right Tree – Right Place

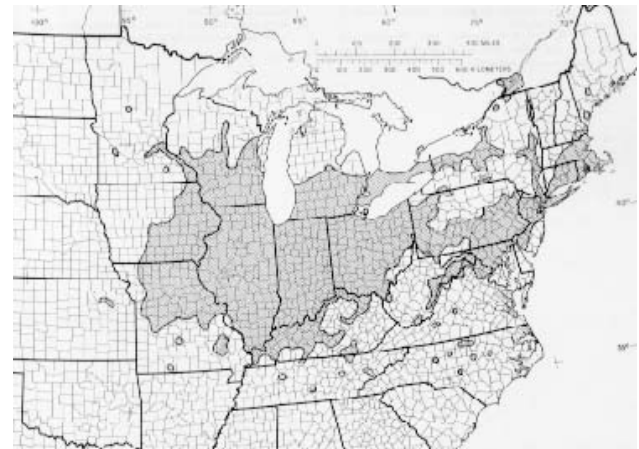
Distance from Utility Line: 60+ ft minimum

pH: 4.3-6.5

Moisture: Grows in a variety of soils (from silty clay to silt and sandy loams) in swamp forests of river bottoms, streambanks, depressions, borders of ponds, lakes and swamps, and moist peaty flats.

Sun Light: Full sun

Landscape Usage: The swamp white oak has become a popular landscape tree, partly due to its relative ease of transplanting. In addition to its growth rate the tree is also highly ornamental. The dark, shiny green leaves with gray to shiny white and downy underneath create excellent visual interest on windy days. During winter the light gray bark stands out in the landscape with the heavily exfoliating bark on smaller branches adding even more winter interest to the plant.



Range Map

TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

1) Plan ahead: Think Right Tree - Right Place. Choose a quality grown species of tree that fits your yard. Look for utilities above and below ground. To reduce summer air conditioning costs or to just help cool your home, plant large deciduous shade trees on the east, south or west sides of your home. Plant conifers (evergreens) on the north side or on the side with prevailing winter winds.

2) Before digging call Arkansas One Call



1 (800) 482-8998 or simply 811

3) Gather your tools: gloves, rounded shovel, pick axe for rocky sites, water hose or bucket, hammer to drive stake(s), heavy duty scissors to cut containers if needed, or to cut burlap, wire cutters to cut wire baskets.

4) Gather your supplies: stake(s), arbor tie or wire tie, B12 root simulator or mycorrhizal fungi (not needed but can be beneficial) and organic mulch (due to cypress tree devastation, cypress mulch is not recommended).

5) Dig the planting hole no deeper than the height of the root ball and 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball. You should have a shallow, wide planting hole. Very Important – the tree should never be planted deeper than the depth of the root ball. This is the worst mistake made in planting trees. It is best if the tree is actually planted high by 1 to 1-½ inches. This insures that after the tree settles it will still be planted at the proper depth.

6) For containerized plants remove the tree from the container; be gentle on the trunk. If it won't come out push in the sides of the container – a little bit. This may free the soil up enough to slip the root ball out. If that doesn't work, cut the container. If tree is ball & burlap, set tree in hole, cut away the wire basket and remove. Cut and remove all twine or other wrapping and top 1/3 of burlap.

7) Backfill the planting hole with the soil you removed when digging the hole. Do not add any other soil amendments or special soil mixes, they are not needed and in fact can cause future rooting problems.

8) When the hole is half full of soil, water to help remove air pockets, then continue to fill the hole until it is full and water again.

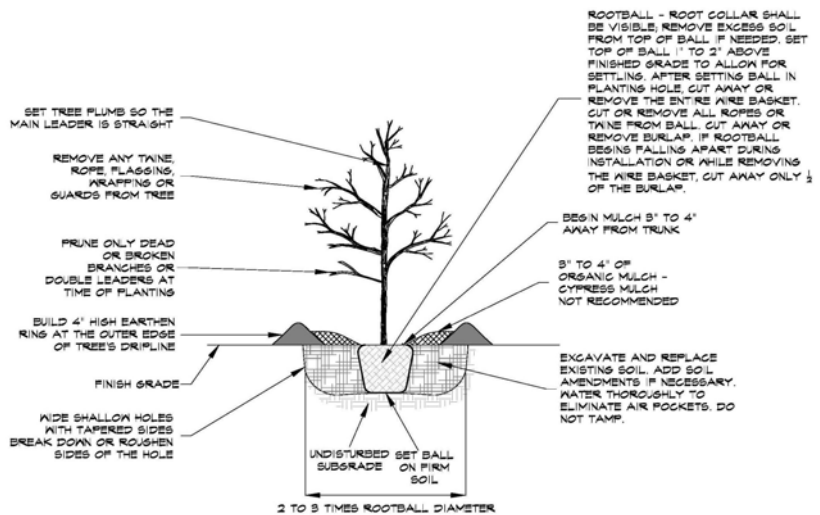
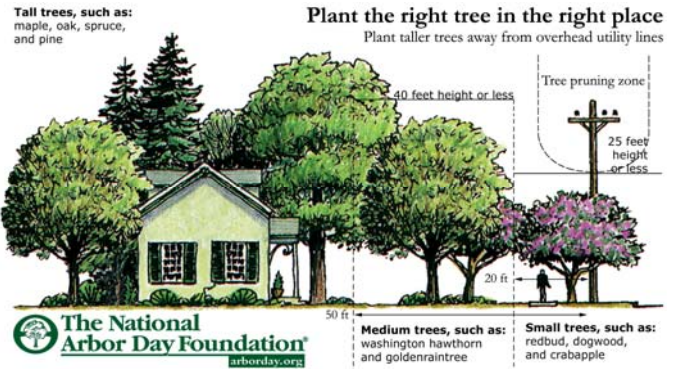
9) Use the left over soil to build a berm around the outer edge of the planting hole. This will direct water flow to the root ball where it is needed.

10) Top dress the root ball and berm with organic mulch 4 inches deep. Do not let the mulch contact the tree trunk. Taper it away from the trunk.

11) Stake the tree only if it is needed (remove all staking after one year).

12) Maintain the newly planted tree on a watering schedule for the next year. New trees should receive around an inch per week during the growing season (Spring through early Fall). Soil should remain moist, but not wet. Under and/or over watering is the worst mistake made in establishing trees.

13) Enjoy your tree and the benefits it brings you and the community.



The Urban Forestry Advisory Board selected native trees and shrubs to give away this year because they should be easy to grow and maintain, will reflect our town's unique setting as a city on the edge of the Ozarks and because many pollinators, birds and other wildlife depend only on the native plants they evolved with for food and habitat. We encourage residents to Google "Why Native Plants" to learn more. We also encourage residents to eliminate invasive plants like privet, bush honeysuckle and English ivy because they crowd out native plants and inhibit the seasonal transition of native plants that our wildlife depend on.