

Quercus shumardii

Shumard oak, spotted oak, Schneck oak



Quercus shumardii is one of the largest southern red oaks. This lowland tree is native to the eastern United States, where it grows on moist, well drained soils near rivers. In its natural habitat, the Shumard oak occurs together with species such as *Quercus alba*, various *Carya* species, *Fraxinus americana* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, with an understory of *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Cornus florida*, *Hamamelis virginiana* and *Ilex opaca*. The crown is upright and pyramidal when young, semi open and twelve to eighteen meters tall, but later becomes more open, equally wide and broadly vase shaped in habit. In the wild, heights of thirty to forty meters can be reached.

The inversely ovate to oval leaves are deeply lobed, with seven lobes cut almost to the midrib, and emerge dark green with a hairy underside. In autumn, *Quercus shumardii* displays magnificent fall colors ranging from yellow bronze to deep red. The Shumard oak flowers in May with yellow green catkins. These are followed by ovate, dark brown acorns with a cup that covers only about one quarter of the acorn. The gray brown trunk is shallowly furrowed and exfoliates slightly with age.

In its natural range, the climate is humid and temperate, characterized by hot summers and mild, short winters. Nevertheless, *Quercus shumardii* is hardy down to USDA zone 5A. The Shumard oak is also highly drought tolerant and appears tolerant of both high pH soils and nutrient poor sites. Despite this adaptability, it grows best on fertile, well drained loamy soils near streams and rivers. Moist and wet soils are tolerated as long as drainage is adequate. This species is well suited for planting in parks and large gardens, where its broad crown can fully develop as a large shade tree. *Quercus shumardii* has a moderate growth rate and produces the best quality wood of all red oaks.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs

USE

Location: avenue, park, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 12 - 18 m | **Width:** 12 - 18 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, polished, underside hairy, dissected, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, red | **Fruits:** acorn | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, horizontal branches, thickly branched | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, slightly branched

