

Botanical Name: Quercus lobata

Common Name: Valley Oak, California White Oak

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, mostly single-trunked tree, becoming a broad-spreading, stately plant with massive branches; bark is thick, ashy-gray, checkered on older trees

Height 30-60' (80') Spread 3/4-equal Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial sun

Soil prefers a rich, deep loam; tolerates most soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-3,6-16,18-21); likes summer heat

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oblong-obovate; 2-4" long, deeply notched into 7-11 lobes rounded at their tips; dark green above, paler below

Flowers unisexual, staminate flowers; in slender terminal catkins; pistillate flowers are solitary, inconspicuous, axillary

Fruit a nut (acorn); conical, with the cup enclosing 1/3 of nut

Propagation: seed (no stratification required)

Usage: a large accent or specimen tree valued for its picturesque branching form; a large shade tree, good for rustic, informal landscape

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; drought-tolerant after established

Fertilizing little required (too much encourages root rot)

Pruning head high and develop scaffold framework on young plant

Pests/Diseases oak moth; Armillaria root rot

Special Conditions

Origin: Central Calif. Family: Fagaceae