

Botanical Name: Quercus chrysolepis

Common Name: Canyon oak, Gold cup oak

Type of Plant: Dicot: tree Family Fagaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright to spreading evergreen tree, mostly single trunked, with smooth pale gray bark; ascending and arching branches form a full oval to rounded canopy - some old trees may develop a very broad canopy

Height 20 - 40ft (60ft) Spread equal or more Growth Rate slow - moderate

Environment:

Exposure full sun - prefers warm sunny locations; can tolerate some shade

Soil prefers well-draining sites; can tolerate clay if not over-watered

Hardiness hardy (zones 5-9, 14-24): thrives in more habitats than other oaks

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, leathery, quite variable in shape and margin - mostly oval-oblong, 1-2" long, dark green above, yellow-gray tomentose beneath; margins smooth to irregularly spiny-toothed

Flowers inconspicuous, in greenish catkins - spring

Fruit an acorn (nut): oval-oblong, 1 - 1 1/2" long; cup covered with gold hairs

Propagation: seed

Usage: a good small to medium-sized shade tree, valued for its durability and greater tolerance of different soils/habitats than other oaks; suitable for use in woodlands or Mediterranean-theme gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering tolerates regular if drainage is good; is quite drought-tolerant after established; thrives with an occasional deep-soaking in summer

Fertilizing little needed unless if frequently watered

Pruning head high and thin canopy to develop more attractive branch structure

Pests/Diseases quite disease-free compared to some other oaks

Other can become an accent tree for form if structure is developed by pruning

Origin: widespread in the coast range mountains thru Calif.; also in desert mtns