

Botanical Name: Quercus ilex

Common Name: Holly oak, Holm oak

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single-trunked tree, with ascending and spreading
branches forming a large, dense canopy; the trunk and main branches have gray,
fairly smooth barks

Height 20-40' (60') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun; grows poorly in shaded locations

Soil prefers deep loam soils but tolerates most except alkaline

Hardiness hardy (zones 8,9,12-24); thrives in warm, inland locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, with variable shape, stiff, 1-3" long,
entire or slightly toothed; dark shiny green above, paler beneath

Flowers inconspicuous, greenish, in slender catkins

Fruit a nut (acorn); cup enclosed about 1/2 of the nut

Propagation: seed (germinates easily, can become weedy)

Usage: a widely used shade tree or street tree; may be used as an
accent tree (for form) if frequently pruned; plant has aggressive root system
and is messy

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; plant not as drought tolerant as the native
oak species

Fertilizing as needed; check for chlorosis in wet, clay soils

Pruning head high when young, develop primary branch framework

Pests/Diseases aphids, sooty mold scale; may get mealy bug in shade

Special Conditions

Origin: So. Europe Family: Fagaceae