

Pin Oak

Quercus palustris

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Henry D. Gerhold, Penn State University



Edward R. Hasselkus,
University of Wisconsin



Henry D. Gerhold,
Penn State University

Height: 55' to 75' (50' at age 30)

Width: 40' to 55' (35' at age 30)

Hardiness Zone: 5 to 8

Crown: conical becoming ovate, medium texture

Foliage: 3" to 6", lobes narrow and pointed, glossy green, bronze or red in fall

Flowers: inconspicuous

Fruit: 1/2" acorns, crops occur at 1 to 2 year intervals

Description: The shape and growth habit are different from most other oaks. It has a dominant central leader and numerous branches; upper ones are upright, and lower branches are descending. It occurs naturally on moist or wet sites in central and eastern U.S. The smooth, dark gray bark becomes fissured with age. Leaves of young trees commonly persist through the winter. Growth rate is medium to fast, and it is intolerant of shade.

Advantages: The distinctive growth habit makes it one of the most popular oaks for landscaping where space is adequate, including some broad streets and a wide range of soils, from moist to dry. Its massive stature is appropriate for spacious grounds.

Limitations: Chlorosis can become very severe on alkaline or limestone soils; the onset is sometimes delayed, but it can stunt and kill trees eventually. It is infrequently injured by gypsy moth, oak wilt, galis, or cankers. Acorns can be a litter problem in some years.

Site and Culture: Transplants readily. Requires acid soil free of limestone, and full sun. Chlorosis can be corrected with ferric ammonium citrate capsules. Descending lower branches must be pruned very high where clearance is needed for pedestrians or traffic.

Cultivars: 'Crownright' and 'Sovereign', both of which have upright lower branches, were taken out of production because of delayed graft incompatibility problems.

Pictures and Information:

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Municipal Tree Restoration Program, School of Forest Resources, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802