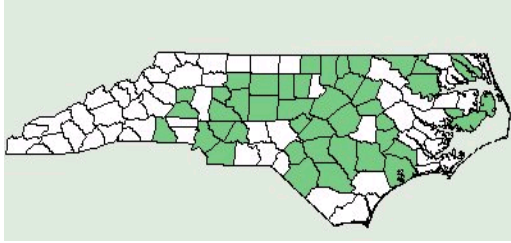


WILLOW OAK

Quercus phellos

A fast-growing, undemanding oak that makes a striking shade tree for a large area. Its abundant acorn crops are important wildlife food. Also known as peach oak, pin oak, and swamp chestnut oak.



Description: Medium to large, deciduous, long lived, graceful tree conical in shape, with a straight, slender trunk and willow-like leaves, which are slightly wavy, giving way to yellow, yellow/brown fall color. The leaves are 5 to 8 times as long as wide, with no lobes. Around the age of 20 years, the

willow oaks begin producing acorns that are not as messy as some oaks.

Natural Habitat: Native to the Southeast. In N.C., willow oaks are commonly found in transitional communities between swamps and upland forests.

Conservation Status: Endangered in N.Y. and Pa., threatened in Ill.

Size: 40-75' high, 25-50' spread.

Growth Rate: Moderate to rapid

Light: Full sun.

Planting and Care: Prefers moist well-drained soil but will grow in a wide range of conditions including compacted soil. It is easy to transplant.

Ornamental Value: Leaves turn a dull yellow in the fall.

Landscape Usage: It is a favored shade tree for large yards and used widely in urban areas. It makes a good street tree, being tolerant of heat, drought, air pollution and standing water.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: It is an important source of lumber and pulp.

Wildlife Benefits: The consistent and abundant acorn crops are an important food source for wildlife including waterfowl, wild turkey, blue jays, Redheaded and red-bellied woodpeckers, flickers, grackles, white-tailed deer, fox and gray squirrels, and other small rodents.