

## Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

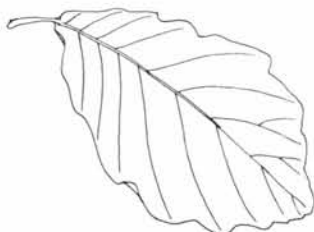
When one thinks of a long lived tree in this area you almost certainly think of the Oak. Oaks are majestic trees with huge sturdy branching along with their broad rounded tops. Some of the best courses in the Chicago area have been laid out through native oak forests. It is a tree that needs to be replanted and soon, if one is to perpetuate the present species. This month I have chosen the Swamp White Oak to describe.

“*Quercus bicolor*” (kwer’kus bi-kul-er) — Swamp White Oak

Leaves: Alternate, simple 3 to 7” long 1¼ to 4” wide, oblong-obovate to obovate, coarsely sinuate-dentate with 6 to 10 pairs of entire, usually obtuse teeth, or sometimes lobed halfway to the midrib, dark green above, whitish tomentose or grayish green and velvety beneath.

Buds: Imbricate, broadly ovate, light chestnut brown, 1/8” long, clustered buds often house needle to strap-like appendages.

Stem: Stout to slender, yellowish green to reddish brown.



Bark: Flaky, grayish brown, divided by deep longitudinal fissures into rather long flat ridges.

Size: Grows to 50 to 60’ in height with an equal or greater spread; forms a broad open, round-topped crown and a short limby trunk.

Culture: Transplant as a small tree; found on many types of soil, although performs best in deep moist, well-drained soils; prefer acid soils, pH 5.5 to 6.5; full sun. Found in the wild in low lying and more or less swampy situations, often occurring in moist bottom lands.

Diseases and Insects: It has a whole list of problems such as cankers, leaf blister, leaf spots, powdery mildew, various galls, scales, oak skeletonizer, two-lined chestnut borer, leaf miner, etc., etc. BUT it is a durable and a long lived tree.

Credit: “*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*” by Michael A. Dirr



There are two good extension newsletters on the market today that would be a benefit to anyone who is growing grass or trees, etc. The first one, “The Chicagoland Hort Newsletter” prepared by Fredric Miller, Entomologist and James Fizzell, Horticulturist. For information on how to subscribe for this newsletter and cost call (708) 990-0769. The second newsletter, “The Bug Dope” is by Dr. Richard L. Miller, Emeritus. Extension Entomologist, Columbus, Ohio. Call (614) 488-7170 for additional information.

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