

SAWTOOTH OAK

Quercus acutissima



Characteristics

- Type: Tree
- Zone: 6 to 9
- Height: 40.00 to 60.00 feet
- Spread: 40.00 to 60.00 feet
- Bloom Description: Yellowish-green
- Bloom Time: March to April
- Flower: Insignificant
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Suggested Use: Shade Tree
- Leaf: Good Fall
- Fruit: Showy
- Tolerate: Drought
- Invasive: This plant is listed as a noxious weed in one or more Midwestern states

Culture

Best grown in rich, humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Adapts to a wide range of soils. Tolerant of heat and humidity. First respectable crops of acorns may occur as early as 10 years. May not be reliably winter hardy throughout Zone 6.

Noteworthy characteristics

Quercus acutissima, commonly called sawtooth oak, is a medium sized deciduous oak that is included in a section called the "Cerris" group, which has traits that are somewhat intermediate between the red and white oak sections. Gray to black bark develops corky ridging with age. It is native to China, Korea and Japan. Insignificant monoecious yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring as the leaves emerge. Fruits are oval acorns (to 1" long), with spiny, scaly cups that extend to approximately 2/3 the acorn length. Acorn crops can be quite abundant and are an important source of food for wildlife. Oblong to lance-shaped, chestnut-like, glossy dark green leaves (to 7" long) have bristle-tipped marginal teeth at the terminal point of each parallel vein. Fall color is variable, ranging from an attractive golden brown to undistinguished pale brown.

Problems

Chlorosis (yellowing of the leaves) is common in neutral to alkaline soils, and can severely damage the tree. Otherwise, sawtooth oak is considered to be a low-maintenance tree with good pest resistance. Oaks in general are susceptible to a large number of diseases, including oak wilt, chestnut blight, shoestring root rot, anthracnose, oak leaf blister, cankers, leaf spots and powdery mildew. Potential insect pests include scale, oak skeletonizer, leaf miner, galls, oak lace bugs, borers, caterpillars and nut weevils.

Garden Uses

A medium shade tree for large lawns or parks.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder