

Swamp White Oak

Quercus bicolor

Swamp White oak is native to Aitkin County, identifiable by two tone leaves or the peeling bark. The leaves have two colors; on the top side you will see a dark green tone then on the underside you will see a silvery-white tone. Leaves are rounded at the point with slightly rounded lobes down the leaf. Acorns mature quickly and are about 1” long, plus are an important food source for a variety of wildlife. Swamp white oak wood is not as valuable as the other oak trees, however, provides an excellent shade tree in parks and yards. Grows well in low land areas, such as swamps and wetlands.

Height: 50’ to 65’

Swamp white oaks have a long lifespan, some living up to 300 years. They tend to grow 1 – 2 feet per year.

Planting environment:

Soil: Acidic, floodplain, silt

Moisture: Moist to well-drained

Sunlight: Intermediate (mixed sun and shade)

Space swamp white oak seedlings at least 10’ apart.

Maintenance:

They can produce a large crown, so they need space to grow.

They do not naturally form a leading stem, so it helps to prune the lower drooping branches.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Oak wilt
2. Anthracnose (Fungal Disease)

