

# Live Oak

(aka Coastal Live Oak) (*Quercus virginiana*) Native



Heritage Oak (*Quercus virginiana*, Heritage). The Live Oak is a magnificent tree highly sought after for its stately spreading habit and the fact that it is ever green. Its dense hardwood was much sought after in years past as ship wood. It is so loved that it is greatly overdone with broad monocultures prized by neighborhood associations and landowners. It is found mostly along the Texas coastal plain in our state but will thrive farther north if planted there. The roots of this tree, when grown in large groups, will graft to each other. This is advantageous to the tree in that the members of the group can share resources through the root system but it makes Live Oak stands especially susceptible to oak wilt which will infect one tree in the group through insects feeding on the sap of a fresh wound and then be passed to every other member of the group through the grafted roots. Oak wilt has been identified in Gonzales County and it is nearly always fatal to this magnificent tree. If you plant Live Oak, plant a single tree away from others to the best that you can. Consider the amount of time and effort you will expend on this slow growing tree and consider whether another tree might suit you just as well. The Heritage Oak is a variety of the Live Oak that was developed to be a faster growing variety that would tolerate more arid conditions. It has many of the same attributes as its parent, the Live Oak, and unfortunately the same susceptibility to oak wilt.

For more detailed information, go to Texas A&M Forest Service  
<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/TreeDetails/?id=109>