

Swamp White Oak Tree

Quercus bicolor

The Swamp White Oak is a medium-sized tree with attractive peeling bark, native to Pennsylvania. It has a moderate growth rate of 1 to 2 feet per year and usually found in moist to swampy locations. They can grow in almost any conditions but they prefer deep, moist, well-drained, moderately acidic soils and full sun a minimum of 6 hours per day. They can be used for a shade tree or planted in a naturalized area for wildlife to enjoy for food and habitat. Please keep in mind that oak seedlings are a favorite of browsing white-tailed deer and will require a chicken-wire cage for the first several years. See "Follow-Up Care" in paragraph below.

Swamp white oaks should be planted more than 60 feet away from buildings as their mature width can be anywhere from 50 to 70 feet. Don't forget to water the tree well after planting. When mulching around the tree, do not pile mulch right against the trunk. Allow at least 2 inches of bare ground space to prevent decay and only use native plant bark mulch in its natural colors (no dyes added). Dyed wood mulch does not break down to enrich the soil. Instead, it leaches the dye and its contaminants into the soil, harming or even killing beneficial soil bacteria, insects, earthworms, and sometimes the tree itself.

Swamp white oak trees can be planted near black walnut trees if you happen to have one on your property. They can tolerate the allelopathic nature of the black walnut tree as the walnut tree's juglone toxin production attempts to stunt the growth of other trees nearby.

Regarding fertilization of newly planted trees – **DON'T!** For at least the first year, their nutrient needs will be minimal. During the first year, **they are establishing their root systems**, and fertilizer (which stimulates stems and leaves) will not be appropriate. In fact, fertilizer is never really required for these plants unless they are suffering from some disease.

Provide follow-up care. The swamp white oak tree, during the first year after planting, requires watering at least once a week. It can be watered less often during periods of rain. Continue watering until early December as lower temperatures require less-frequent watering. Additional controls such as fencing or repellents are recommended for areas with high deer populations. For example, when planting new trees or shrubs you may want to protect them temporarily with small cages taller than the plant to prevent the deer from "tasting" them before they have had a chance to grow. Another way to deter the deer in lieu of cages is deer repellent. Here are two different products that have been proven to be fairly successful:

1. Plantskydd Repellent – a pre-mixed liquid that contains environmentally safe ingredients, and long-term protection when sprayed directly on plants.
2. Deer Stopper – a highly effective but more expensive product that needs to be spray-applied every 30 days. Works by smell and taste, will not wash off, and is pleasant to use, odor free.

Botanical Name	Quercus bicolor
Plant Type	Deciduous Tree
Mature Size	50-70 feet tall, 50-70 feet wide
Sun Exposure	Part shade (minimum 6 hours full sun)
Soil Type	Well-drained soils; clay, loamy, sandy
Soil Moisture	Moist