

Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*)

Like many oaks, the swamp chestnut oak makes a good shade tree with its broad, spreading branches and large foliage.

Also known as basket oak or cow oak, this 60-to-80-foot-tall tree is found on moist, periodically flooded, bottomland soils from southern New Jersey to northern Florida.

While its name can be misleading, the Swamp Chestnut Oak does quite well in the urban landscape if provided occasional irrigation, especially during times of drought.

Besides its use as a landscape tree, wood can be used to make traditional farming tools, flooring, furniture, baskets, posts, and barrels. The acorns are some of the largest in Florida, eaten by white-tailed deer, turkey, squirrels and hogs. Cows also eat the acorns, as the common name 'cow oak' suggests.



Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Quercus prinus: Chestnut Oak*. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st557>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn