

# Laurel Oak

## *Quercus laurifolia*

A large, fast-growing shade tree, laurel oak is native to the southeastern United States and is noted for its dense, oval canopy. Laurel oaks have a life span of 50 to 70 years. They are taller than they are broad and the trunk can be up to four feet in diameter, flaring out at the base. Laurel oaks will grow easily in full sun or partial shade and are quite tolerant of a wide range of soils, from moist and rich to dry and sandy. They have been described as tolerant of wet sites. Trees growing under drier conditions will grow more slowly and, it is thought, will have stronger wood less susceptible to breakage. Tree trunks and large branches often hollow from decay and wood rot. The smallest trunk injury or improper pruning cut can result in columns of decay inside the trunk. Roots can lift sidewalks and curbing if planted too close.

**Type:** large deciduous tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6b through 10a

**Uses:** reclamation; shade; specimen

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Height:** 60 to 70 feet      **Spread:** 35 to 45 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained; occasionally wet

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

**Invasive potential:** native

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

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Photo: UF/IFAS