

## SHUMARD OAK

My name is *Quercus shumardii*, but my friends call me Shumard oak or red swamp oak. I will grow to be very old but I need your help to be healthy and strong. My leaves turn a beautiful red with some yellow and brown hues in the fall but I have dark green leaves in the summer. I am a deciduous tree which means I lose all my leaves for winter. My bark is a dark grey as I get older but a light grey when I am young and my trunk is straight and vertical with little to no drooping which makes me a good yard tree.

I grow acorns once I turn 25 years of age that provide food for turkeys, song birds, waterfowl, whitetail deer, squirrels and many other birds. I am very valuable to caterpillars and butterflies and they depend on me to survive. Because I can tolerate different environments I am found all over the US from Florida to Texas and all the way north to Canada. I grow larger in more southern states and smaller the more north I am planted.

I can live an average of 200 years old but have been known to live up to 480 years old, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP TO GET THERE! I am very versatile and can be planted in yards and city areas as I have great urban adaptability and am drought tolerant. If planting me in a lawn I have to be at least 12 feet away from a structure/house to allow me to grow. I can tolerate both wet and dry soil, uplands and downlands. I can tolerate up to 6 weeks of flooding. I grow up to 40-60 feet high and 40 feet wide if I grow in the right place but make sure to pick a great spot for me as I don't like to be moved once I am planted. I will give your yard and neighborhood lots of shade and can be planted in full sun or partial shade.

To learn more about how to plant a tree go to our website at: [www.olentangywatershed.org](http://www.olentangywatershed.org). I come to you as a bare root tree which means I'm a baby tree and I need to be planted right away. If you can't plant me today please put me in a bucket with some water to be planted within 7 days. Please make sure you call 811 before you dig so that utilities and underground wires can be marked and avoided. The hole you dig must be deep and wide enough to cover my roots but not high over my trunk. IF I AM TOO LOW I WON'T GROW, IF I AM TOO HIGH, I WILL DIE. My soil needs to stay moist so make sure I get lots of water for the first 2 months. You can place mulch around me to keep in moisture but not right up against my small trunk.

