FACT SHEET: 
NATIVE MISSOURI OAKS

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Oak trees are some of Missouri’s most valuable assets in the timber industry, for wildlife value, as well as their values for shade, and mighty structure. The Missouri Department of Conservation cites there may be 18 species native to our state with more species found if you look into hybrids which can be fairly common in natural areas and botanical specimen trees. The Oak genus (*Quercus*) can be divided into two groups; the White and Red Oaks. Each species is unique and if planted in the landscape should be cited so that it matches its natural growing conditions.

The White Oak Group: Has acorns that mature in a single year and generally contain less tannins than Red Oaks making them more sought after by wildlife. Its leaves lack bristly tips and have smooth rounded lobes. Its bark is rough and furrowed by generally flatter on the ridges. This group also has a lighter colored wood that can be water tight making it a highly valued timber tree. White Oak species native to Missouri include:

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)
Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*)
Overcup Oak (*Quercus lyrata*)
Dwarf Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus prinoides*)

Left: Bur Oak Leaf. This oak is one of the largest and most adaptable of the oaks. A mature Bur Oak has a very course texture to it and can make a statement in the landscape.

The Red Oak Group: Has acorns that take two years to mature. Leaves have lobes that are pointed at the apex except on the Willow and Shingle Oaks but all have small bristly tips. The Red Oak Group generally has more reddish hues for fall color. Bark on most species is generally rough and deeply furrowed. Red Oak species native to Missouri include:

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)
Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
Northern Pin Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)
Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)
Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*)
Nutall Oak (*Quercus texana*)
Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*)
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)
Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)

Left: Northern Pin Oak Leaves. In its natural habitat this species is usually found in bottom-lands. It is fairly adaptable and is one of the most common oaks used in landscaping.

Left: Willow Oak Leaf. This lesser known and uncommon tree looks nothing like other Oaks. They have smaller leaves and a very fine branching habit making it a unusual amongst Oaks and a tricky one to identify.