**WILLOW OAK**

Quercus phellos

Willow Oak is a deciduous tree in the beech family that is native to eastern and central USA. In NC, it can be found in all areas of the state. It has a nice balanced rounded form that has made it a popular tree in the southeast USA.  Willow Oak is fast-growing for an oak, is long-lived and starts producing acorns at age 15-20 years.

**Wildlife Value:** This tree is a high-value wildlife tree for birds and mammals.

**Exposure:** Full sun to light shade

**Soil:** adaptable to a variety of soil types; acidic, average, medium to wet, well-drained soils preferred.

**Height:** 50-80 ft., can reach up to 100 ft tall

**Zones:** 5a-9a

**Habit:** Deciduous

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems:** This tree is susceptible to wind damage.  It is fairly disease and pest resistant. Root rot, borers, trunk canker, and orange-striped oak worm are potential problems. Chlorosis due to iron deficiency occurs on high pH soil.

**Care:** Prune at the earliest age possible to create clearance beneath the canopy. Prune to a single trunk. Pruning in late summer and early fall minimizes the impact on growth, as leaves remain on the tree during the entire growing season. To reduce susceptibility to disease and insects, and ensure minimum impact on the growth of the tree, prune twigs and branches early in the growth of the tree. Fertilize established plants in spring.

For information about gardening or the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program of Pender County, contact Tiffanee Boone, Pender County Horticulture & Local Food Agent at tiffanee\_boone@ncsu.edu or 910-259-1235.

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