INTRODUCTION

This native North American deciduous tree is capable of reaching 100 to 120 feet in height but is more often seen at 60 to 80 feet (Fig. 1). The dull, dark green, lobed leaves are four to eight inches long and two to five inches wide. The small, reddish-brown acorns are 0.75 to 1.25 inches long. The bark is dark, grey/brown, and divided into broad, flat plates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Quercus nuttallii
Pronunciation: KWERK-us nuh-TALL-ee-eye
Common name(s): Nuttall Oak
Family: Fagaceae
USDA hardiness zones: 6B through 8 (Fig. 2)
Origin: native to North America
Uses: large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; shade tree; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 60 to 80 feet
Spread: 35 to 50 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette
Crown shape: round
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: medium
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: lobed; parted
Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Figure 1. Middle-aged Nuttall Oak.
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: red
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower
Flower color: brown
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: oval; round
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches; .5 to 1 inch
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels and other mammals; inconspicuous and not showy; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; green
Current year twig thickness: medium; thin

Culture
Light requirement: tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained
Drought tolerance: moderate

Other
Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible
Pest resistance: unknown

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Nuttall Oak should be grown in full sun on any soil and is very tolerant of poorly-drained, wet sites. This should make it well suited for the soil conditions found at many urban sites. If landscape nurseries grew this tree more often, it would be specified for poorly-drained urban and suburban landscape sites.

Propagation is by seed.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases of major concern.

Figure 3. Foliage of Nuttall Oak.