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Quercus prinus

Bloom Color Brown
Bloom Time Spring

Leaf Color Green
Fall Color Copper, red and yellow
This plant has attractive fall colors.

Fruit Color Brown
The fruit is dry, oval and round.

Environment
This plant tolerates drought.
This plant will grow in very dry soil.
Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.
The pH preference is an acidic to neutral (less than 6.8 to 7.2) soil.

Landscape Uses

Attributes and Features

- Attracts birds
- Inconspicuous blooms
- Inconspicuous fruit
- Fruit attracts animals

Quercus prinus syn. *Quercus montana*
Chestnut Oak, Basket Oak, Rock Oak
Fagaceae (Beech)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

Type Tree, woody plant
Hardy range 4A to 8B
Height 50' to 75' / 15.20m to 22.80m
Spread 50' to 70' / 15.20m to 21.40m
Growth rate Average
Form Rounded
Exposure Full sun

Native Habitat

Dry rocky ridge tops and upper southern and western slopes with little moisture holding capacity from southern Maine to central Alabama up to elevations of 4600 feet.

Additional Notes

This plant typically grows with one trunk.
This plant has low flammability.
National champion is 144 x 70 feet in Tennessee.

Culture Notes

Chestnut Oak is naturally found on poor, dry, sandy or rocky landscapes. Well adapted to planting along highway roadsides or in other areas where there will be no maintenance but not suited for clay soil or poorly-drained sites. The wood is very durable and hard. *Quercus michauxii* (Swamp Chestnut Oak), a closely related species, is now lumped together with *Quercus prinus* by some authorities although in my (*Dr. Gilman*) mind they look quite different. It grows taller, with plate-like, light bark and has similar cultural requirements.

Wood weighs about 66 pounds per cubic foot. Oak wood is considered ring porous to semi-ring porous.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees, to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Prune the tree so trunks and branches will not rub each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark. This reduces the likelihood of the main branch splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of

foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

Due to the coarse root system, the tree is often raised in fabric containers in field soil, is regularly root pruning in the field, or is grown in air root-pruning or copper root-pruning containers. The container systems allow for less circling roots along the edge of the root ball; the field systems may result in a greater portion of the root system harvested.

<<spring transplant best>>

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

None of major concern other than gypsy moth. Variable Oak and Oak slug caterpillars can infest the tree although natural enemies usually provide control. Fall cankerworm has been a problem in some years. There are many other potential problems, although none normally serious. Most oaks are considered resistant to verticillium wilt.

