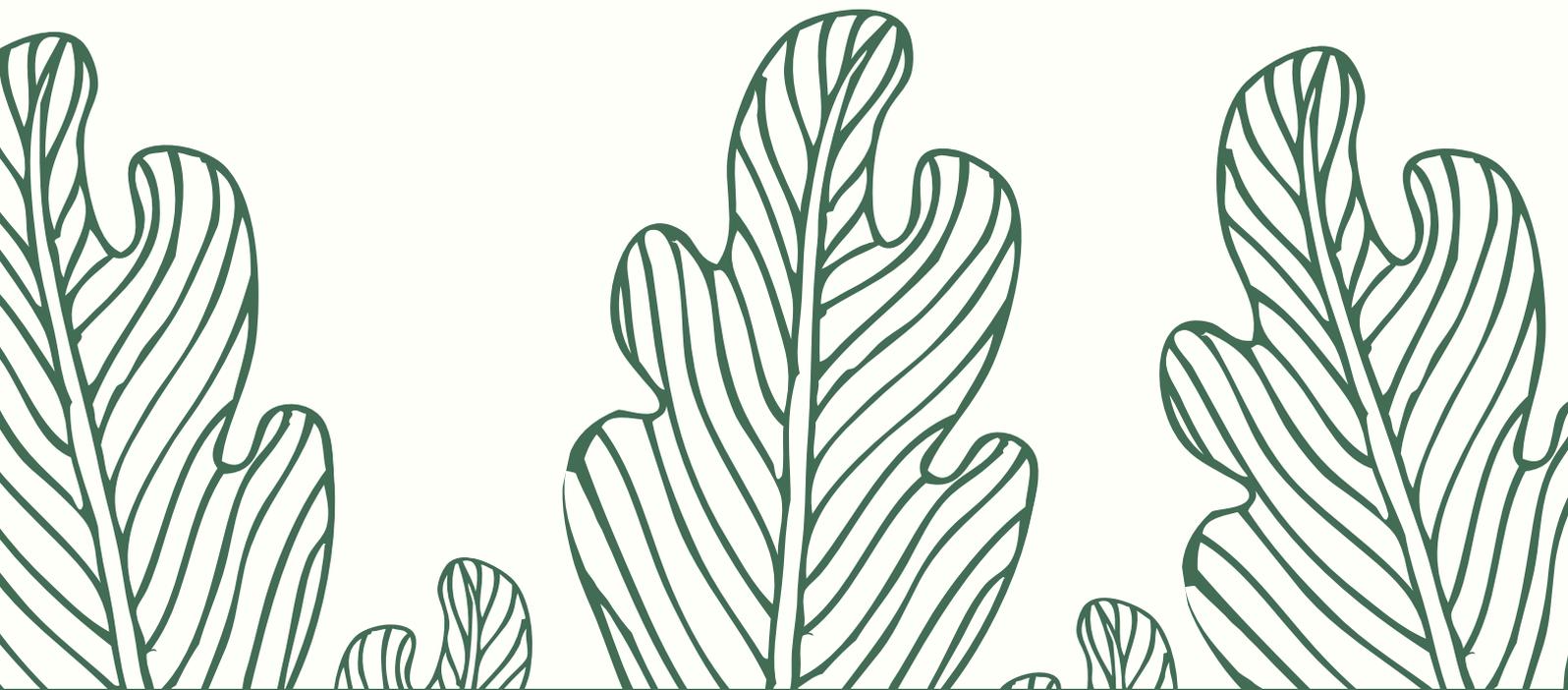


THE THIRD LIVE OAK TRAIL

# LIVE OAK FACTS & RESOURCES

THE TALLAHASSEE GARDEN CLUB



THE THIRD LIVE OAK TRAIL IS A PROJECT OF THE TALLAHASSEE GARDEN CLUB AND HOPES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING TALLAHASSEE'S HERITAGE TREES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.TALLAHASSEEGARDENCLUB.COM](http://WWW.TALLAHASSEEGARDENCLUB.COM) OR CALL (850) 224-3371. THIS RESOURCE WAS DESIGNED BY MICHELLE PRESLEY.



# RESOURCES



TO USE THE GOOGLE MAP,  
CLICK HERE.

## Additional Resources

- <https://www.sptreefarm.com/interesting-facts-about-live-oak-trees.html>
- <https://study.com/academy/lesson/oak-tree-facts-lesson-for-kids.html>
- <https://www.thefactsite.com/oak-tree-facts/>
- <https://www.gardenguides.com/86503-live-oak-tree-identification.html>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

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# LIVE OAK FACTS

The name **live oak** comes from the fact that **evergreen oaks** remain green and “**live**” throughout winter, when other oaks are dormant and leafless.

**Live oak** is initially a very **fast-growing tree**, and may reach heights of 4 feet within the first year. After that, however, the rate of growth slows down, but remains rapid. This usually means that **live oak** can gain 24 inches or more in a single growing season, assuming growing conditions are optimal.

The **live oak** has oblong or oval leaves that may be as long as 5 inches. The live oak is also evergreen and keeps its leaves until they grow old and drop off the tree, while the water oak usually loses its leaves in the fall.

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**Oak trees** are monoecious, meaning that they have **male and female** flowers on the same plant. Unlike many other flowering plants, however, they have separate male and female flowers. The **male flowers** produce pollen, while the **female flowers** produce eggs that will be fertilized once the flowers are pollinated.



# MORE LIVE OAK FACTS

The Live Oak can be planted in the most southern zone in the United States, zone 10. Most oaks have a growing range that extends north to zone 4 or 5, but there are several varieties that can grow in zone 3. Zone 3 varieties include the Northern Red, Bur, and White Oak.

The initial root is the **taproot**, which grows deep underground, seeking a dependable supply of moisture. ... Most **oak tree roots** lie only 18 inches under the soil. They may spread, though, to occupy a space four to seven times the width of the tree's **crown**.

**Oak trees** (Quercus spp.) take decades to mature. Depending on their species, the **trees** are 20 to 30 years **old** when they **produce** their first **acorns**. Even then, acorn production is not consistent from year to year.

Young **live oak** leaves are also poisonous. Both the leaves and the acorns are safe to touch, and must be ingested to be harmful. Once ingested, the toxin in the plant can cause symptoms that include stomach pain, constipation, bloody diarrhea, excessive thirst, and urination

The live oak can grow into a majestic tree, a quality that helped make it Georgia's state tree. Live oak grows along the coastal plain of the southeastern United States, from Maryland to Texas. The tree takes its name from the fact that unlike most oak trees that lose their leaves come winter, the **live oak** is an evergreen species. Not only does live oak live for a long time, it has some of the hardest wood; the timbers of "Old Ironsides," the ship named the U.S.S. Constitution, are made from this tree. The tree has specific identifying characteristics.

## SIZE

The live oak is a wide tree at the top, spreading out to cover a large area with its branches. This is one of the tree's most recognizable features. The tree can be from 65 to 85 feet tall, and some will have a spread of 150 feet across at the crown. The trunks of live oaks typically possess diameters of 3 to 4 feet and are relatively short compared to the overall size of the tree.

## LEAVES

Botanists classify live oak leaves as simple leaves, meaning they are one single solid leaf on a stem. These leaves are narrow and have an elliptical shape, between 2 and 5 inches in length and about 2 inches wide. The upper portion of the leaf is shiny with a darkened green hue, while the bottom is duller and has a gray-green shade. Live oak leaves have a leathery texture and can stay on the tree through the winter months before replacement leaves grow in the spring.

## ACORNS

The acorns a live oak produces seldom exceed one inch in length. They have a broad base and taper to a pointed tip. Light brown in color in the cap, at the point where the acorn attaches to the oak tree, the majority of the fruit is a darker brown, with some looking nearly black. These acorns grow by themselves on the tree or in clusters of as many as five nuts. Unlike many types of acorns, the meat of the live oak acorn is not bitter tasting.

## BARK

The bark of a live oak is dark brown, with some developing a dark red-brown look to them. It has many furrows in it, but these are not deep, ingrained in the upper layers of the bark. Ridges also permeate the bark, which can appear scaly or blocky as the live oak tree matures. The older live oaks have an almost black bark.

Determine the growth factor for your oak. For example, if an oak's trunk measures 314 inches around, its diameter would be 314 divided by 3.14, or 100 inches.

## HABITAT

Someone may use the habitat of the live oak to aid in its identification. The tree often grows in stands of several live oaks, but it may also exist as an individual tree within a woodlot of other types of trees, such as the laurel oak and the water oak as well as American holly.

## LIVE OAK TREE (QUERCUS VIRGINIANA)

### GROWING ZONES

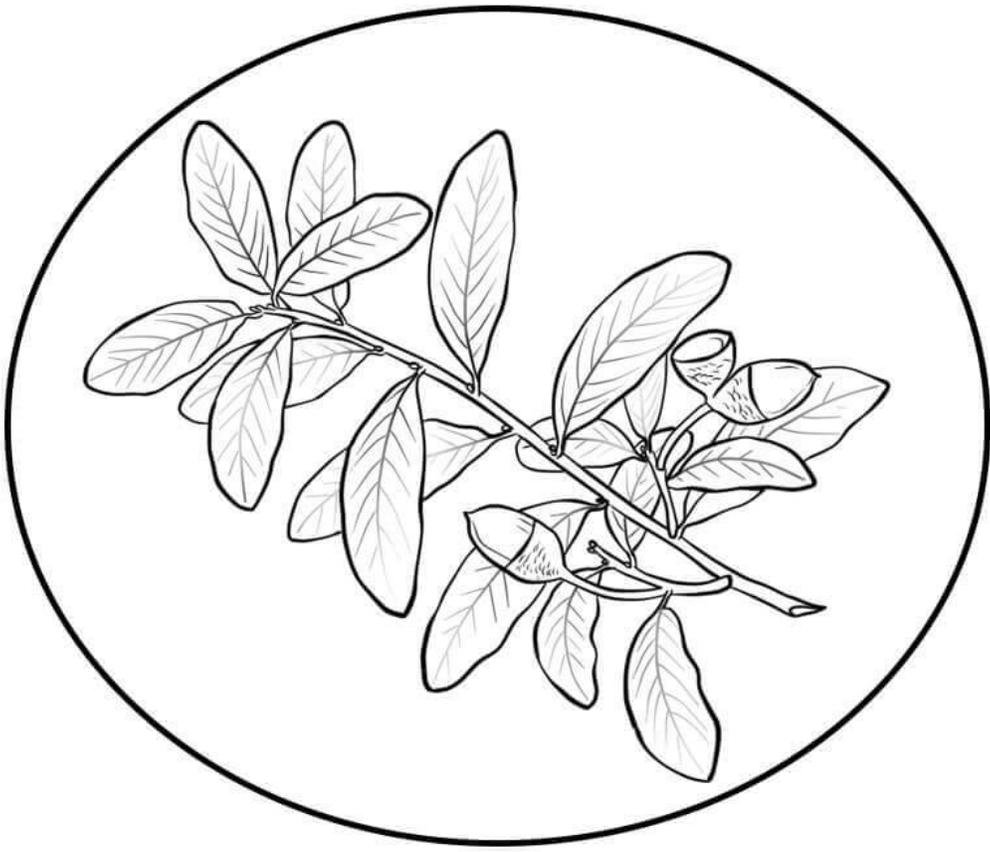


#### PLANT HIGHLIGHTS

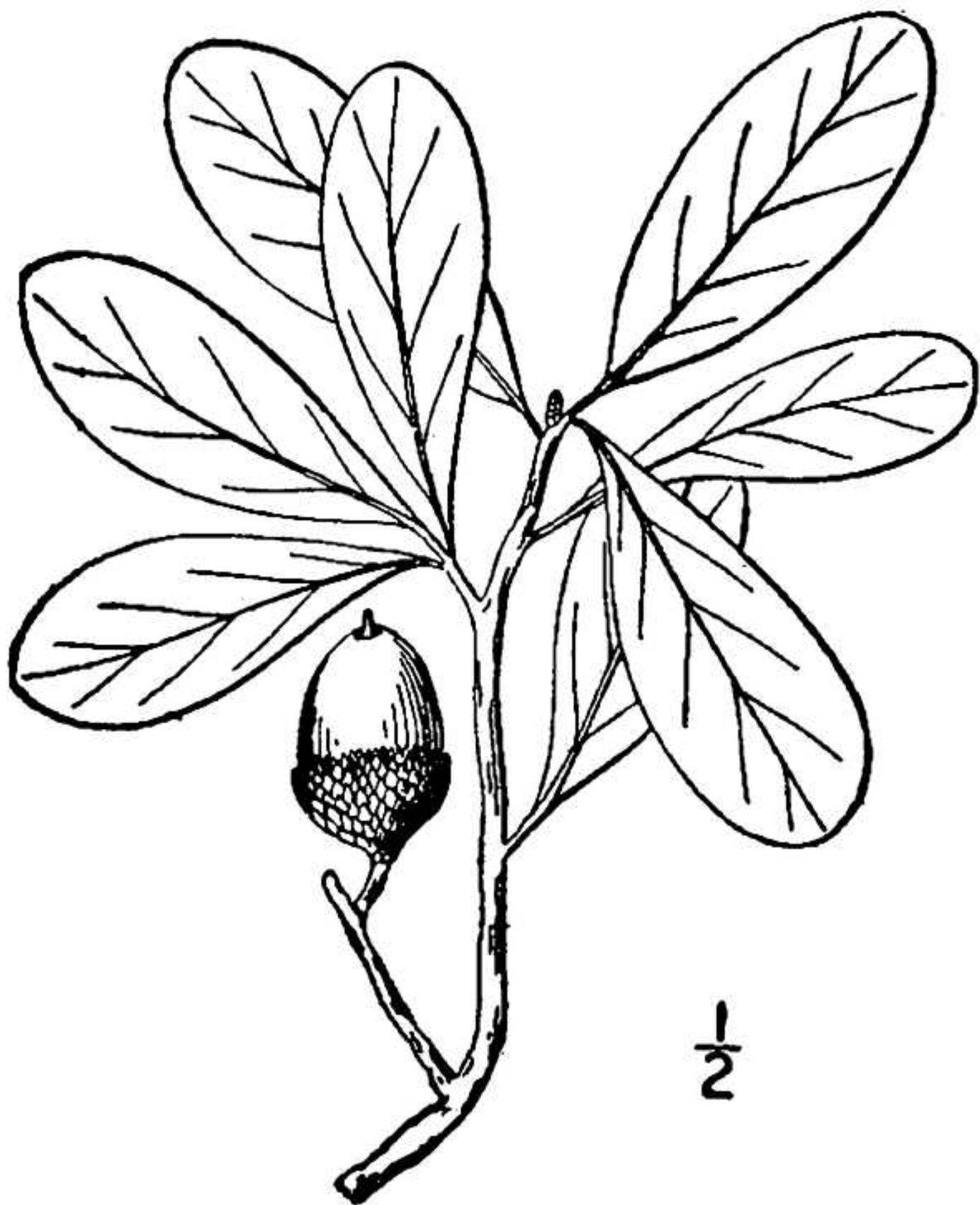
Southern Live Oak Is Suited to Grow in Zones 8-10

Tallahassee is in zone 8 - 8.5

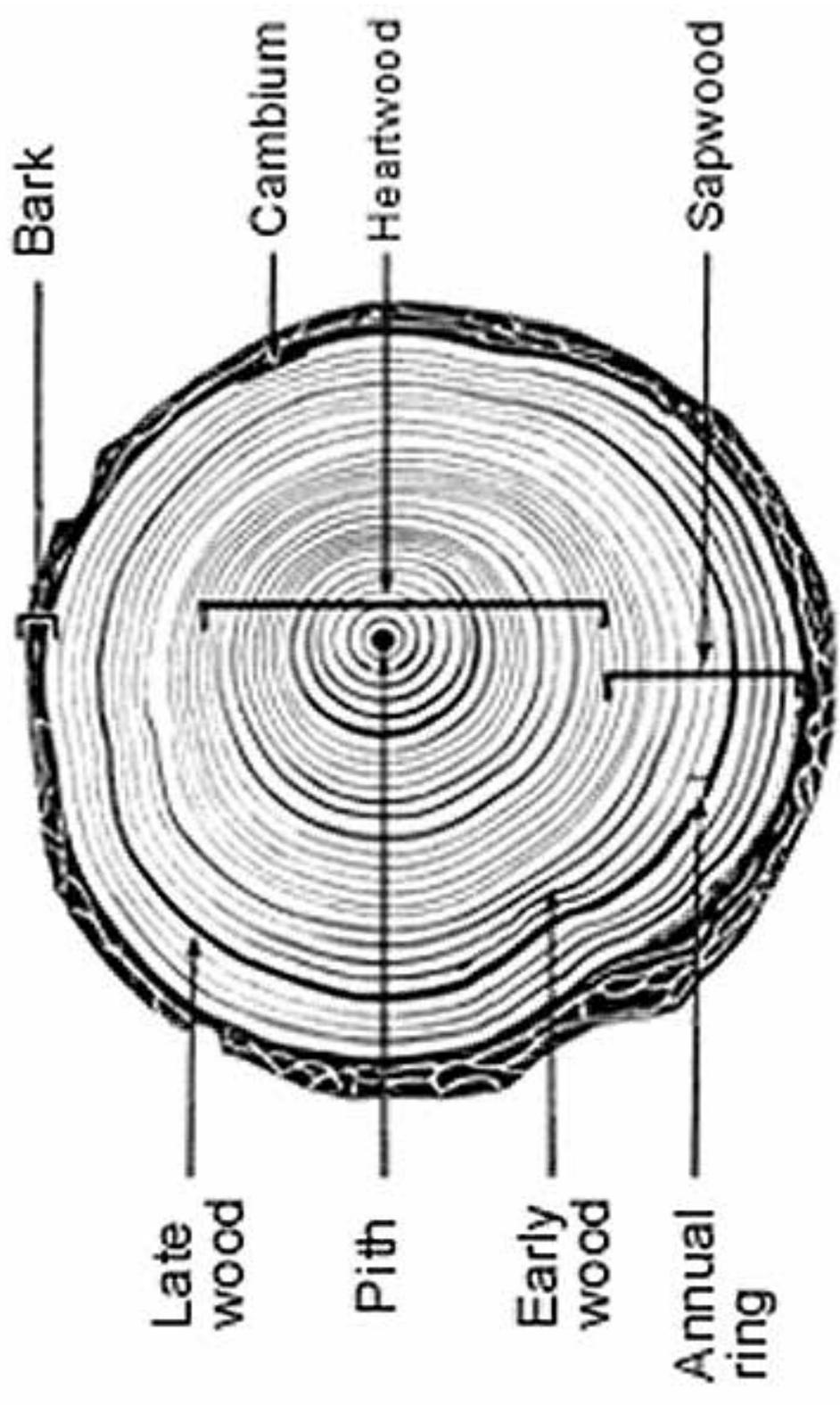
Botanical Name	Quercus virginiana
Mature Height	50 - 80 feet
Mature Spread	70 - 90 feet
Sun Exposure	Full Sun, Partial Shade
Soil Type	Widely adaptable
Growth Rate	Medium
Foliage	Broad leaved Evergreen
Foliage Color	Green
Fall Color	Evergreen



Paint the world  
**SUPER**  
**COLORING**



$\frac{1}{2}$



Bark

Cambium

Heartwood

Sapwood

Late wood

Pith

Early wood

Annual ring

