



## OVERCUP OAK

*Quercus lyrata*

Overcup Oak, or *Quercus lyrata*, takes its most common name from the manner in which the acorn cup covers two-thirds to nearly the entire acorn, hence ‘overcup’. The Latin species name, meaning “lyre-shaped,” refers to the leaves.

Also known as “Swamp Post Oak”, “Water White Oak” and “Swamp White Oak”, the Overcup Oak hybridizes with many other oaks in the white oak subgenus. Genetically, the Overcup Oak is most closely linked to the Post Oak, or *Quercus stellata*.

Associated with Water Hickory (*Carya aquatica*), Overcup Oak is perhaps the only commercial oak species that grows well on wet bottomland sites. In the urban landscape, the Overcup is an excellent addition to the palate for wet sites. In natural areas, this tree is an excellent tree for improving wildlife habitat.

The tree can be susceptible to heart rot when injured, which is understandable given that it generally exists on wet sites. The national champion Overcup oak is in South Carolina, measuring 22 feet in circumference, 123 feet tall and 48 foot crown spread. Overcups can live to 400 years of age.



Overcup Oak leaves



Overcup Oak leaves

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*Quercus lyrata*



65g Overcup Oak

**Native Origin:** Southeastern United States

**Development:**  
Introduced in 1786

**Description:**  
Hardy Range: 5 to 9  
Mature Height: 45' to 70' / 13.7m to 21.3m  
Mature Spread: 35' to 50' / 10.7m to 15.2m  
Growth Rate: Average  
Form: Oval and rounded  
Persistence: Deciduous

**Ornamental Characteristics:**  
Flowers are inconspicuous. The acorn is round and attractive with a cap that nearly encloses the nut. Bark is gray and scaly. Leaves turn yellow-brown to tannin brown in fall.

**Environment:**  
Soil: Prefers wet soil; well-drained soil once established  
Salt: not rated  
Exposure: Partial sun to full sun



full sun



urban



canopy



deciduous

