Matching Tree Species with the Planting Site

Tree selection and placement are two of the most important decisions a homeowner makes when landscaping a new home or replacing a tree. Many trees have the potential to outlive those who plant them, so the impact of this decision can last a lifetime. Matching the tree to the site benefits both the tree and the homeowner.

Selection Factors

Tree Function: What is the purpose of the tree? Will it be valued for shade, or landscape beautification?

Space Constraints: Is there adequate space for the tree to mature? Plant trees 15-20 ft away from overhead power lines and buildings. Avoiding planting too close to paved areas (3-4 ft minimum).

Site Conditions: Will the tree variety thrive in the available conditions?

Environmental Conditions: Will the tree thrive in the available conditions in regards to soil, water, and sunlight?

Variety Selection: Is the specific variety recommended for your area?

Management Needs: Does the tree variety require significant management to thrive? Are there major pest or disease concerns?

San Juan County
Cooperative Extension Service
Bonnie Hopkins
Agriculture Extension Agent
213-A South Oliver Drive
Aztec NM 87410
sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu
bhopkins@nmsu.edu
505-334-9496

Marisa Y. Thompson, PhD
Extension Horticulture Specialist
Department of Extension Plant Sciences
Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center
New Mexico State University
https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com

Adam Harrelson
San Juan County Master Gardener

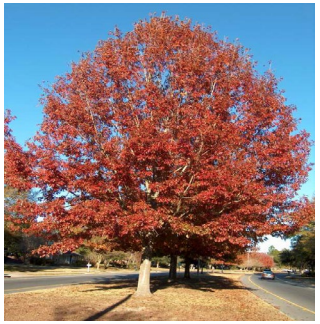
More Resources:

NMSU Urban Horticulture Program
https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/

"Tree Pruning Techniques"
NMSU Extension Guide H-156
https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H156.pdf

"Southwest Yard & Garden"
Weekly gardening column archives
for the past 23 years!
https://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/yard/archives/index.html

A partnership between San Juan County Cooperative Extension and San Juan College



Shumard Oak Tree Care Guide

Scientific Name: *Quercus shumardii*
Plant Description: A large, deciduous tree that has dark green leaves that turn to red leaves in the fall. Despite being a non-native variety, they are very drought tolerant.

Sunlight Requirement: Full Sun
Water requirement : Moderate Water Use

Drought Tolerance: High

Growth Habit: Slow Growing; irregular crown uniformity. 13-24" growth per year. Mature growth 60-80ft tall with 40-60 ft spread

Landscape Value: well suited for residential

Typical Years to reach maturity: 25 years

Typical Life Expectancy: 100+ years

Ideal Planting Situation: Prefers alkaline soils; tolerates salt in soil.
Maintenance Level: Low
Wind Resistance: High
Potential Considerations:

- Plant at least 20 foot from any structure

Caring for Young Oak Trees in New Mexico

Planting: To prevent tree death from planting too deep, the hole should be dug no deeper than the root ball when measured from the bottom of the root ball to the trunk flare (point where topmost root emerges from the trunk). The width of the hole should be a least 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball to encourage for lateral root spread. Remove container and carefully straighten any circling roots so they grow out laterally from the base. Backfill hole with existing soil. No fertilizers, rooting hormones, or other soil amendments are recommended. Water sufficiently to allow soil to settle and remove large air pockets. Trunk flare must be visible above the ground after soil has settled

New Tree Watering: Excess moisture is bad for oak tree roots because it can cause root rot and can lead to secondary problems with pests or diseases. However, rooting area of *newly* planted trees must remain moist, not soggy. Frequency of irrigations depends largely on soil type. Check soil moisture level before watering to be sure it is necessary. Water deeply enough to reach roots at the bottom of the planting hole.

Care: Newly planted trees in areas with high sun exposure should have the trunk protected during the winter using white paint (mix equal parts white latex paint and water) or using a loose-fitting white wrapper - only when tree is dormant.

Mulch: A fibrous, woody mulch is recommended to help maintain soil moisture, reduce weedy species, among other benefits. Spread mulch on top of soil around rooting area and beyond at 2"-4" depth, but not touching the trunk. Check one week later to be sure root ball has not settled too much and that the trunk flare is still visible.

Monitoring*:* Monitor landscape plants for pests, diseases, or other ailments on a regular basis. Protect the trunk especially where maintenance activities, such as mowing, may cause damage. Always read the label of any pesticide or chemical treatment used.

Typical Pests: No serious pest concerns. Minor concerns: Galls; Mites; Scales; Aphids; Boring Insects; Twig pruner; Leaf miners.

Disease Potential: No serious disease concerns. May be effected by powdery mildew; Oak wilt; leaf blister.

Caring for Mature Oak Trees in New Mexico

Mature Tree Watering (>3 years after planting): Once trees are established, water to a depth of 2-3 feet every time you water. Apply water at the canopy dripline and beyond, avoid watering close to the trunk. Frequency: Water every 2-4 weeks in spring; every 1-3 weeks in summer; every 2-4 weeks in fall; 6-8 weeks in winter, when possible

Pruning: Oaks need little pruning when the site is carefully selected for mature size. Prune intentionally to provide air circulation, maintain a desirable shape, reduce the incidence of rubbing branches, and to remove dead or damaged branches. Pruning is best done in late winter to early spring for oak trees. Avoid pruning more than 30% of the canopy in a single year. For more pruning information, review the helpful resource links on the back of this brochure.

Disease Potential: Reduce disease susceptibility by watering wisely and allowing soils to dry between irrigations, especially in poorly drained soils. Powdery mildew, leaf blister, and canker diseases are potential problems, but not common on healthy trees.