

## Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

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### Summary:

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf  
Height: 70 feet  
Spread: 40 feet  
Shape: Upright pyramidal in youth, oval at maturity  
This large oak has wine-red foliage in the fall.

### Plant Needs:

Zone: 4 to 8  
Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Moisture: Wet to moist to average  
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay  
pH Range: 3.7 to 6.0

### Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant include shade and specimen plant.

### Planting Notes:

Readily transplants due to fibrous root system.  
Prefers moist, rich, well-drained acid soil and full sun. Do not plant in high pH or compacted soils.  
Tolerates wet, clay soils.

### Care:

Prune to establish one central leader (trunk).

### Problems:

Grows poorly in alkaline and compacted soils.

### Alternatives:

Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Quercus palustris*:

`Sovereign' has lower branches that do not droop.

`Crownright' is similar to the `Sovereign', but with a more narrow and upright shape.

### Comments:

In about the first thirty years, the branching habit of the native pin oak is truly unique. The upper branches are ascending, the middle ones horizontal, and the lower ones drooping. The drooping lower branches make pin oak a poor street tree. It is better placed in locations where the lower branches will not be a nuisance.  
Suitable for bonsai.

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