

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

Native Range: Central Texas, Oklahoma and Eastern USA.

Sun/Shade: Full sun or part-shade

General Information: Beautiful shade tree seldom used. Looks like a Monterey Oak except its leaves have a serrated edge and are more translucent allowing light to brighten up the dark green leaves. Loses its leaves in winter after attractive fall foliage. Can be seen growing wild in Lady Bird Johnson park near Fredericksburg.

Landscape Use: Use as a large shade tree. Does very well in our area. A major San Antonio area grower stopped producing this tree, because they did not sell as well as the Monterey Oak, which took the market by storm. But the Chinkapin is just as beautiful as the Monterey Oak. Unfortunately the general public is simply ignorant of this awesome tree or else they would plant it much more, and growers would then grow it much more. This is also true of many other native plants.

Size: Up to 80 feet tall by 50 feet wide.

Type: Deciduous shade tree with fall foliage.

Drought Tolerance: Very drought tolerant but looks best with occasional watering.

Soil: Not particular about soil as long as it drains well and does not remain constantly wet. Does well in rocky soil or even better with soil enhancement.

Water: Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc. Do not keep constantly wet.

Fertilizer: Looks even better with regular fertilization.

Maintenance Tips: Cut off lower limbs as you prefer.

Rating: Rates high as a landscape plant.

Pictures: See the plant picture book in the appropriate section.