

Tree Descriptions:

Quercus muehlenbergii, commonly called Chinkapin (or Chinquapin) oak, is a medium sized deciduous oak of the white oak group that typically grows 40-60' (less frequently to 80') tall with an open globular crown. It is native to central and eastern North America where it is typically found on dry upland sites often in rocky, alkaline soils.

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Although it primarily grows in dry, rocky soils in the wild, it seems to prefer moist fertile loams in cultivation. Relatively good drought tolerance. May take up to 30 years for this tree to bear a first crop of acorns.

Cornus racemosa, commonly called gray dogwood, is a deciduous shrub which is native to Missouri and typically occurs in moist or rocky ground along streams, ponds, wet meadows, glade and prairie margins, thickets and rocky bluffs. It grows 10-15' tall and features white flowers borne in terminal racemes (hence the species name of *racemosa*) in late spring. Foliage turns an interesting dusky purplish red in fall. Terminal stems holding the flowers are distinctively red and provide interesting contrast to the clusters of small white berries which form after the flowers have dropped. Red stem color is more easily seen after the fruits are gone, and red color often persists into early winter.

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions, including both moist and somewhat dry soils. Tolerant of city air pollution. Will spread to form thickets if root suckers are not removed.

Cercis canadensis, commonly called eastern redbud, is a deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that typically matures to 20-30' tall with a slightly larger spread. It is particularly noted for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring (March-April) before the foliage emerges. This tree is native to eastern and central North America. It is found in open woodlands, thickets, woodland margins, limestone glades and along rocky streams and bluffs. Flowers (to 1/2" wide) bloom in clusters of 4-10. Flowers are followed by flattened leguminous bean-like dry seedpods (to 2-4" long) that mature to brown in summer. Leaves turn pale yellow to greenish-yellow in fall. The flowers provide an early-season nectar source for hummingbirds. The seeds and flower buds are eaten by songbirds.

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Part shade is best in hot summer climates. Performs best in moderately fertile soils with regular and consistent moisture. Avoid wet or poorly drained soils.

Step-by-Step Guide to Planting and Caring for Bare-Root Trees

1. **Choose the Right Location:**

Select a planting site that receives the appropriate amount of sunlight for the tree species you've chosen. Consider factors like soil type and drainage as well.

2. **Prepare the Hole:**

Dig a hole that is twice as wide as the tree's root system and deep enough to accommodate the roots without bending or crowding them.

3. **Soak the Roots:**

Before planting, submerge the bare-root tree's roots in a bucket of water for several hours or overnight to rehydrate them.

4. **Trim Damaged Roots:**

Inspect the tree's roots for any damaged or broken parts. Trim them cleanly with sharp pruners or scissors.

5. **Plant at the Right Depth - very important**

Position the tree in the hole, ensuring that the roots are spread out and facing downward. The tree's root collar (the point where the roots meet the trunk) should be level with the ground surface.

6. **Backfill and Water:**

Gently backfill the hole with soil, tamping it down as you go to remove air pockets. Water the tree thoroughly to settle the soil and remove any remaining air pockets.

7. **Mulch and Stake (If Necessary):**

Apply a layer of mulch around the base of the tree to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Stake the tree if it's tall or in a windy area to provide support.

8. **Watering and Maintenance:**

Keep the tree consistently moist during the first year, especially during dry spells. Gradually reduce watering as the tree becomes established. Monitor for pests or disease and take appropriate action if needed. Prune any dead or damaged branches to encourage healthy growth.

9. **Patience and Care:**

Understand that it may take some time for your bare-root tree to establish itself fully. Be patient and continue to provide care and attention as needed.