

LEAVES LOOK LIKE  
DUCK FEET



# WATER OAK

## QUERCUS NIGRA

Water oaks are part of the red oak group and are native to the eastern U.S. While they are a good food source for animals, water oaks tend to have poor unions and are prone to breaking. Many trees retain green leaves throughout the winter. Water oaks can handle many types of soil conditions and are often found along streams as well as backyards.



**TYPE:**  
Deciduous



**SIZE:**  
80 feet high  
60 feet wide



**SUN:**  
Full sun



**FLOWERS:**  
Separate male and female  
flowers called catkins on  
same tree



**USDA ZONES:**  
6-9



**ID TIPS:**  
Leaves look like a duck  
foot with two lobes on  
each side of a lobe at  
the end of the leaf. Bark  
is grayish black, with  
shallow, irregular fissures.



**WILDLIFE VALUE:**  
The acorns are eaten  
by a variety of wildlife:  
squirrels, deer, raccoons,  
chipmunks, pigs and many  
birds (blue jays, crows,  
red-headed woodpeckers,  
turkey, quail, ducks).



**INTERESTING FACT:**  
Water oaks require  
pruning when young to  
create strong structures.

