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### *Quercus laurifolia*

[Synonyms : *Quercus aquatica* var. *laurifolia*, *Quercus hemisphaerica*, *Quercus laurifolia* var. *hybrida*, *Quercus laurifolia* var. *obtusa*, *Quercus obtusa*, *Quercus obtusa* var. *obovatifolia*, *Quercus obtusiloba*, *Quercus phellos* var. *laurifolia*, *Quercus rhombica*]

**LAUREL OAK** is a semi-evergreen tree. Native to south-eastern United States, it has glossy dark green leaves and blackish-brown acorns.

It is also known as *Chêne à feuilles de laurier* (French), Coast laurel oak, Darlington oak, Diamond-leaf oak, Laurel-leaf oak, *Lorbeer Eiche* (German), Obtusa oak, Red laurel oak, Spotted oak, Swamp laurel oak, and Water oak.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Laurel oak is one of three oak trees which has neither lobed nor toothed leaves (the others being the laurel oak, *Quercus imbricaria* and willow oak *Quercus phellos*) with which it is sometimes confused – but the leaves of willow oak can be longer than those of the other two.

*Laurifolia* is made up of the genus name *Laurus* and *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘with leaves like those in that (bay) genus’.

Choctaw North American Indians used the dark brown to black bark as an ingredient in paint. The strong, heavy wood has been used for building interiors and pulp, as well as locally for fuel and charcoal.

In parts of southern United States laurel oak has been cultivated as an ornamental shade tree in gardens and streets.

The acorns are eaten by wildlife, including deer, raccoons, squirrels and other rodents, as well as ducks, quails, wild turkeys and smaller birds. Deer also browse on the foliage.