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Office of
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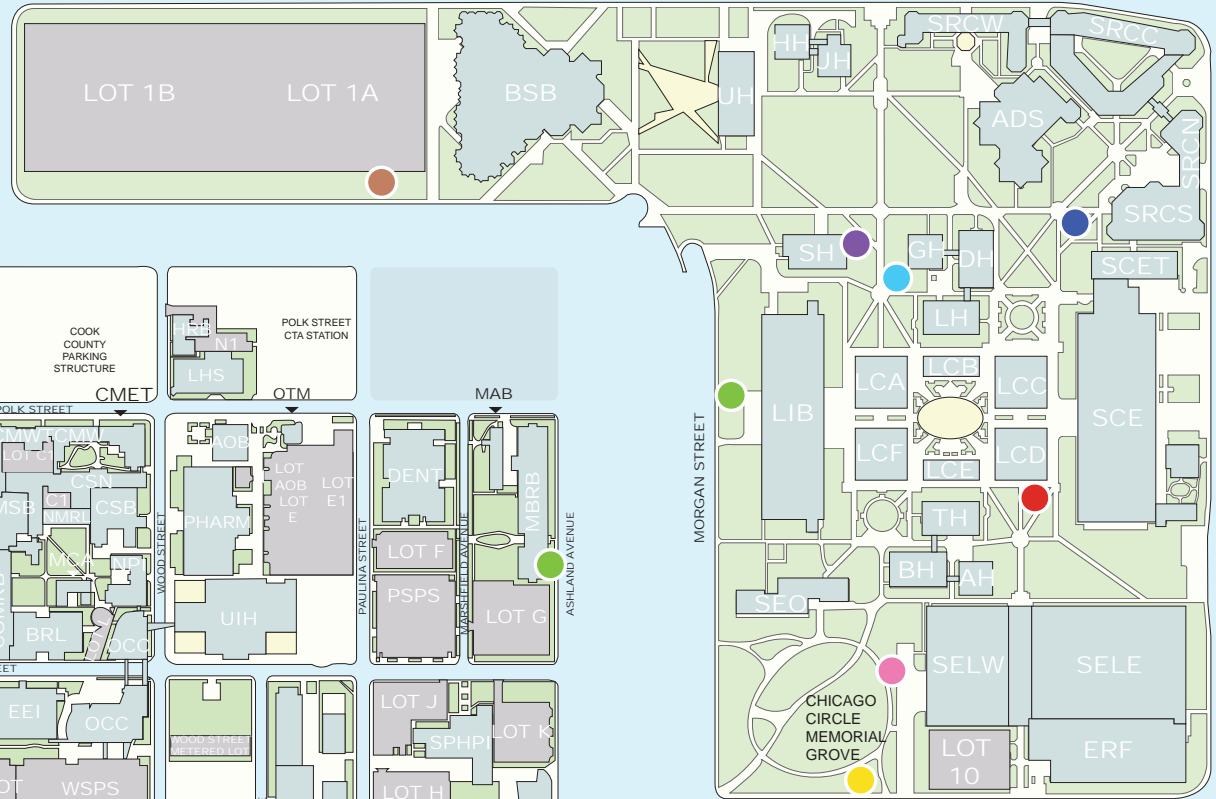
The Morton
Arboretum



WEST SIDE



EAST SIDE



Can you identify each oak tree
based on its leaf?



Did You
Know?

The Illinois State Tree is the
White Oak!



OAK TREE WALK

Self-guided exploration of the Oak tree
species of the campus forest at
The University of Illinois at Chicago

<http://go.uic.edu/trees>

● Bur oak

The bur oak is tolerant of a variety of soils and moisture conditions and prefers full sun. The bur oak can grow to a height of 70-80' and reach a spread of 80' at maturity. This tree has a rather slow growth rate, height increases less than 12" per year. The bur oak offers dense shade and can tolerate pollution and heat stress as well as live for more than 200-300 years, however, it is difficult to transplant. Wildlife including wood ducks, wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, rabbits, mice, squirrels, and other rodents prefer the bur oak's acorns for food.

Tree ID #2386 (East Side) / #403 (West Side)



● Chinkapin oak

Commonly referred to as yellow chestnut oak, rock oak, or yellow oak, the chinkapin oak is medium to a large-sized tree with 4-6" dark green leaves in summer that turn yellow-orange or orange-brown in fall. This species can grow to a height of 40-50' and a spread of 50-60' feet at maturity. This tree has a slow to medium growth rate, with height increases from less than 12"-24" per year. The chinkapin oak can adapt to many soil types and prefers full sun with at least 6 hours of sunlight each day. This tree's acorns are the preferred food of wild turkeys, grouse, white-tailed deer, black bears, chipmunks, squirrels and hogs and cattle will eat its leaves.

Tree ID #1771 (East Side)



● Swamp white oak

Given away in its name, the swamp white oak can be found growing in low-lying, swampy areas, often bottomlands or river banks. This tree can also grow well in urban or suburban areas and is tolerant of compacted soil and drought. It produces oblong acorns in pairs which can be approximately 1" in length. The swamp white oak prefers acidic soil and can experience 'chlorosis' which is the yellowing of the leaves while the veins remain green if soil is not acidic enough. This specific oak attracts a variety of birds.

Tree ID #2252 (East Side) / #1899 (West Side)



● Shingle oak

The shingle oak is native to Illinois and part of the Chicago region. Dark green in the summer and yellow-brown in the fall, this tree's leaves are not easily recognized as an oak due to their oblong and unlobed shape, with one bristle at the tip of the leaf. The shingle oak is easier to transplant than other oaks and can reach a height and width of 50-60'. This tree is intolerant to salt conditions and is moderately tolerant of dry conditions and alkaline/clay soils.

Tree ID #113 (East Side)



● White oak

Historically, the wood of white oak trees has been the preferred wood used for wooden winery barrels across the United States. Its wood is preferred due to durability and strength but most importantly due to microscopic tissues, called 'tyloses', that plug the vascular cells of the wood and help seal the barrel's liquid contents. The white oak can live for centuries, however, it is intolerant of alkaline, shallow, or abused urban soils. It can reach a height and spread of 50-80' at maturity and has a slow to medium growth rate. This tree produces acorns when it's around 50-100 years old with irregular good acorn crops that only occur every 4-10 years.

Tree ID #1868 (East Side)

● English oak

The English oak is a large tree with a broad and rounded spread that can reach a width and height of 75-100 feet. This tree can be found in residential and park sites and is tolerant of drought, alkaline soils, and road salt. It has a slow growth rate but transplants well and should be best planted in well-drained soil in full sun. The leaves on this tree are 2-5" long lobed leaves with ear-lobe like bases and can be dark green to blue-green with very little color change in the fall. The English oak's acorns are food for many small mammals and birds but can take up to 20-30 to produce fruit.

Tree ID #2093 (East Side)



● Northern red oak

The northern red oak has a fast growth rate with height increases of more than 24" per year. It grows in a rounded shape and can reach a height of 60-75' with a spread of 45'. In the fall, this oak's leaves turn russet-red to bright red and in April-May produces pale-yellow catkins that appear at the same time its foliage is expanding. The northern red oak has a dense crown and can offer a lot of shade as well as offer food for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, raccoons, and black bears and which also eat the buds and twigs during the winter.

Tree ID #2683 (East Side) / #3244 (West Side)



● Pin oak

The pin oak is preferred by homeowners and city foresters alike for the many benefits it offers including; shades of russet, bronze, and red in the fall, a fast growth rate, and a mature height of 60-70'. The name pin oak is derived from its short, tough branchlets that are located along the tree's branches and limbs. This tree is very tolerant of heat, soil compaction, and air pollution, and is easy to plant. The pin oak can be commonly found in yards, along streets, and parks.

Tree ID #1730 (East Side) / #1604 (West Side)

