



Coast Live Oak

Family: Fagaceae

Quercus agrifolia




- Native, drought-resistant, evergreen tree, ranging in height from 19 to 82 feet and in diameter from 1 to 4 feet
- Found in the coastal ranges from north central California southward to northern Baja California
- Has a broad, dense crown and widely spreading branches

- Coast live oak is in the black oak subgenera
- Fast growing tree
- Monoecious
(having male and female reproductive organs in the same plant)
- Wind-pollinated



- Flowering takes place from February to April
- Fruits mature between August and October
- Live oak stands are typically 40 to 110 years old and individual trees may live over 250 years.
- Tree roots in southwestern California are associated with mycorrhizae (My-cor-rye-zay) that aid in water uptake during the dry season.

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- Erosion: Stabilize soil on slopes, provide an organic-rich litter, and contribute to a habitat for a diversity of insects, birds, and mammals
 - Wildlife: Acorns are an important food source for birds, small mammals, and deer.
 - Ethnobotanic: Native Americans used acorns as an important food staple and early European colonists found that its wood was superior for use in a variety of industries
 - Landscape and beautification: Coast live oak is an important element in both natural and man-made landscapes, providing shade and an aesthetic quality



Disease and Pests

- Pests and diseases introduced into Southern California are killing native trees and could dramatically change natural ecosystems
- Oaks that have thrived in the region for centuries could disappear from some areas, especially the iconic Coastal live oak
- Fusarium fungus associated with the Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) causes dieback by choking off the movement of water and nutrients in the tree

Goldspotted Oak Borer



Comprehensive information
available on:
[UCANR IPM website](#)


- Goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) is an invasive pest contributing to the on-going oak tree mortality
- Evidence of injury can include chipped outer bark from woodpeckers feeding on the larvae
- Small D-Shaped exit holes where the gold spotted beetles pupate and emerge from the tree.

Examples of damage from GSOB in our local San Diego mountains



Bark staining and bleeding from Gold-Spotted Oak Borer larval feeding

- Impact varies between the three oak species and can consist of gray or brown coloring in the crown of the tree and thinning of the foliage



Currently the management programs for GSOB are focused on limiting its spread into new areas and protecting healthy trees.

More comprehensive pest management can be found on the UCANR IPM website.



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