



Coast Live Oak

Botanic Name: *Quercus agrifolia*

Native to coastal mountains and valleys of California (Northern Sonoma County to Baja)

Description

Tree Shape: Rounded shape with dense foliage and a broad crown; younger trees may be shrubby; with age, branches become gnarled and spread in multiple directions

Bark: May be light to medium gray in color; tending towards smooth texture in younger trees and darkening and developing fissures with age

Foliage Type: Evergreen

Leaf Shape: Oval 1-3.5 inches long, with downward cupping; dark green above and lighter below, commonly edged with short, prickly spine

Flowers, Fruits and Cones: Tiny yellow-gold male flowers in narrow catkins 1-2 inches long; small and inconspicuous female flowers; narrow brown conical acorns 1-2 inches long in fall or winter

Height: Varies: 30-60 feet in urban areas

Width: 15-35 feet; crown spread may exceed height in some trees

Fun Facts

One of Los Angeles' most common natives, the Coast Live Oak has been around for generations and indigenous peoples subsisted in part on the tree's "fruit" (acorns).

The tree also has modest fire retardant properties, which protect the interior of the tree from fires that remain below high intensity. After the fire has passed, the tree recovers and sprouts new branches from its still-living interior.

These trees are "protected native trees" in California. Homeowners must petition the City before they can be removed.

Location in Holmby Westwood

Look for recently planted Coast Live Oaks on Malcolm Avenue.



Water Needs

Minimal-medium; overly regular summer irrigation can overwater

Tolerances

Very drought tolerant; tolerates full sun and partial shade; acidic to slightly alkaline soils

Root Damage

Medium

Diseases and Pests

Susceptible to root diseases and some pests, including Sudden Oak Death, Crown Rot, Aphids, Shot Hole Borer and Mistletoe

