



CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER

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Oak Tree Details

When planning for your replacement trees, keep the Oak family in mind. Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware, states that the Oak species is home to over 530 lepidoptera (butterfly and moths). That is more than any other native species.

Another side effect of their excellent hosting capacity... lunch for many of our bird friends! While that is bad news for the butterfly and moth caterpillars, it is a great way to keep our local birds well fed and keep the circle of life going.

Many of the Oaks we carry are cold hardy and adaptable to many soil types. The Scarlet/Red/Pin Oaks will be faster growing with great branch strength. The Bur/White Oaks are slower growing with the strongest branching of all trees.

Mast is the fruit crop on forest trees and shrubs. The mast of the Oaks is... you guessed it... acorns. All Oaks will create acorns. White Oaks will create a large crop annually. Red/Scarlet/Pin Oaks can take two years for the tree to mast thus creating a heavy crop every other year.

Lowland areas with moist soils:

- * Pin Oak
- * Swamp White Oak
- * White Oak (does best with a well drained moist soil)

Adaptable to many soil types including sandy:

Scarlet Oak
Bur Oak

Like most all trees, the winds of the August 10th derecho were too strong for too long and many Oaks fell. Oaks are typically incredibly long lived trees who do well in our "average" wind storms.

Pro Tip: Many Oaks are intolerant to root compaction such as heavy equipment and asphalt or concrete.



We love this beautiful photo from Larry Gilds Photography highlighting the beautiful red tones of the Red Oak.

**Now is a great time to
continue to plant trees!!**

What is with the Whiteflies?

2019 brought us a strong showing of Whiteflies and guess what... they're back!

Wow! The Whiteflies are everywhere and creating quiet the stir. We have had multiple customers come in and just as many call explaining how terrible the "little white flying insect" is. The word on the street is they are arriving from our southern United States.

Those little boogers are commonly called Whiteflies. Whiteflies are pesky and if present in a greenhouse setting can cause serious damage. When they are found outside the damage is less extreme.

In many situations, natural enemies will provide adequate control throughout the season(University of California IPM). Whiteflies cannot survive our cold lowa temperatures thus not requiring management for next year's plants.

While they are viewed as a pest, unfortunately there is little that can be done. Chemical treatments may reduce the population, but never fully eradicate them due to their rapid reproduction rates. A Whitefly goes from egg to adult in 25 days.

The most less-toxic products such as insecticidal soaps, neem oil, or petroleum-based oils control only those whiteflies that are directly contacted.

Therefore, plants must be thoroughly covered with the spray solution, and repeat applications may be necessary.

One home remedy we have heard is to spray the underside of your leaves with a strong stream of water, or mixing 1 qt water with 1 teaspoon vegetable oil and 1 teaspoon soap. Again, this spray doesn't fully eliminate, but can help reduce the population. You can try these methods at least 3 times at an average of 5 days apart.

Weekly Specials: September 28th - October 4th

Perennials:

30% Off:

Hibiscus and Perennial Vines including Sweet Autumn Clematis

50% Off:

Sedum, Hosta, Ligularia, and Coneflower

Shrubs:

30% Off:

Azalea, Rhododendron, and Mockorange

50% Off:

Juniper and Potentilla

Gift Items:

30% Off:

Farm display and all collegiate items





Put the Fertilizer Down

Step back from the fertilizer, mam (or sir)! Now is **not** the time to put fertilizer on newly planted material. Let your material naturally go dormant!

You should apply a slow release fertilizer in the early spring. Set an alarm on your phone for mid-March. If we are still snow covered and bitter cold, wait until

April.

Don't forget to use an acidic fertilizer on your evergreen and broadleaf evergreen material.

Fruit trees should be fertilized to help promote root growth and improve nutrient absorption. We carry a Citrus Tone organic fertilizer that has a good amount of Potash (Potassium) which is excellent for disease prevention in fruit trees.

You **may** use a Root Stimulator until mid-October to help reduce the shock of transplant. This also gives the tree roots an extra boost to get settled in prior to our cold snaps.

Pro-tip: Give your evergreens a good shot of water in November if we are decently warm. It might only be one time during the month, but it will help them retain the necessary moisture in their needles to prevent winter dehydration.

Shrub Highlight:

Miniature Snowflake Mockorange

30% off this week!

If you have received our emailer for awhile, you are probably familiar with my love of this shrub.

Mockorange come in a wide array of sizes, but the Miniature Snowflake Mockorange will be 4' tall and 3' wide. The white blooms show their face in May and have an intoxicating scent, similar to the Citrus trees of our southern states.

Zone: 4

Deer resistant



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