



Quercus englemannii

Engleman or Mesa Oak

Tree

Sun

Monthly deep watering in summer only

Origin: California especially the San Gabriel Mountains

The Engleman Oak grows with an irregular habit up to 40 feet high and wide at a moderate rate. It is about one third smaller than the more common Coast Live Oak. The leaves are leathery, blue green, and have smooth edges. The leaves can be wavy or flat. Engleman Oak will defoliate if the soil is too dry. Occasional deep watering in summer will help it keep its foliage through the fall and winter. In the spring the old foliage yellows and drops and is replaced with new foliage. Do not water during this leaf change over period. Flower tassels appear in spring and are followed by one inch long acorns that take a full year to mature.

Prune young trees to develop a higher canopy. Mature Engleman Oaks can be pruned every five years to help keep the canopy more open and free of dead wood. Prune during the dormant season in late summer. This will avoid stimulating new growth that can mildew during the cooler months.

The leaf, flower and acorn drop can be a nuisance if the canopy is over paving or a pool. Some staining on paving may occur. Oaks require infrequent watering so plants under the canopy need to be compatible with dry shade. Oaks with a scattering of boulders and dry shade plants create a peaceful and welcoming setting. Oaks and their acorns provide sustenance and shelter for a complex network of insects, birds, and other wildlife.