Live Oak  
(Quercus virginiana)

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Summary:  
- Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf  
- Height: 40 feet  
- Spread: 60 feet  
- Shape: Spreading  
A massive and majestic shade tree with evergreen foliage that is bright olive-green when new and changes to a glossy, dark green when mature.

Plant Needs:  
- Zone: 7b to 10  
- Light: Partial shade to full sun  
- Moisture: Wet to moist to average  
- Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay  
- pH Range: 3.7 to 7.0

Functions:  
Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, and specimen plant.

Planting Notes:  
- Transplant small size trees.  
- Tolerates soils ranging from light sand to heavy and compact silt and clay.  
- Tolerates a wide range of moisture conditions.  
- Tolerates salt spray.  
- Requires large area for branches and roots to spread.

Care:  
Prune when young to establish main branches.

Problems:  
No serious pest or disease problems.  
Gall insect is more unsightly than damaging.  
Susceptible to root rot in coastal areas.

Alternatives:  
Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.  
Cultivars of Quercus virginiana: no important cultivars.

Comments:  
An evergreen member of the oak family, the live oak is cold hardy in the Tidewater area and as far north as Williamsburg.  
A magnificent shade tree; however, its large, wide-spreading, horizontal branches make it inappropriate for small properties.  
The acorns of the live oak are eaten by many animals.

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