

This list was created to provide extra 'info' for people to use/share, if they choose, on their various platforms to support and/or compliment "May is Oak Wilt Awareness Month"

Oak Tree Fun Facts

Did you know...

- 14 different Oak tree species grow in Michigan.
- There are about 600 species of oak in the world.
- Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) grows farther north than any other oak species.
- In ReLeaf MI's recent 'Big Tree Hunt', a 384" circumference Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) growing in Osceola county won the largest tree designation - That's 32' around (122" DBH)!
- Over 550 caterpillar (larvae) species make Oak canopies their home.
- A newly hatched Black-capped chickadee takes about 10 days to mature to its 1st flight and eats 7,000 - 10,000 larvae to fuel that growth! *Thank you* oak trees for helping supply baby birds their food source!
- Oaks are in the same family as Beech and Chestnut trees – (Fagaceae family).
- Acorns are the fruit of oaks and depending on the species, may require 1 or 2 years to mature.
- Swamp white oaks can live 300 years or more.
- Wood from Red oaks make excellent barrels for storing dry goods, while White oak wood is famous for its use in watertight barrels, giving aged whiskey and wine a desirable color and flavor.
- Northern Red oak is an important commercial oak in MI and is among the state's most common tree species.
- Oak wilt is a deadly disease of Oak trees and is spreading throughout MI.
- Regardless of size or age, Red oak trees can be rapidly killed by the oak wilt fungus, often in as little as 6-8 weeks.
- Oak wilt is carried to fresh wounds on oak trees by native beetles, especially during spring and early summer.
- To avoid new oak wilt infections, prune oak trees during the winter. Immediately seal oak wounds during other times of the year to prevent infection.
- Firewood from oak wilt-killed trees can spread the disease. Don't move firewood.
- Learn more at: MichiganOakWilt.org

References:

1. Trees of Michigan. L. Kershaw, 2006, Lone Pine Publishing International. 272 pages
2. Field Guide to Native Oak Species of Eastern North America; Abbreviated Michigan Version. J. Stein, D. Binion, R. Acciavatti, USDA Forest Service, FHTET-2003-01. 2003.
3. MichiganOakWilt.org