

**Oak Savannah trees, sources, prices, and related information,
compiled by Neal Foster, 8/12/08**

See remarks below. The people on the Wild Ones mailing list and other folks I contacted recommended the following sources. I would recommend that we most seriously consider getting our trees from Possibility Place Nursery, based on reports of their better appearance, ease of handling, and likelihood of survival..

Mary Ann Menck, Mary Ann's Michigan Trees and Shrubs, Paw Paw, MI.

<<http://www.maryanntrees.com/>> All Michigan stock/genotypes. Need to pick up the trees there

Swamp White Oak: 1" diameter, 5-6' tall, \$50 each, in tree pots that are 2' tall, 11" wide.

White Oak: 1/2 to 3/4", 5-6' tall, \$50 each, in tree pots that are 2' tall, 11" wide.

Bur Oak: 3/4", 5-6' tall, \$30 each if purchased soon , in pots that are a bit too small, roots have grown too close to sides, and they need to be moved to larger pots.

Chinkapin Oak: none available.

Mary Ann recommended that holes 2.5' in diameter and 18" deep be dug for SWO and BO, 2.5' diameter and 2.5 deep for WO, because more oblique taproots of SWO and BO are less of a problem than with WO, whose taproot tends to grow straight down.

Pat Morgan, Porcupine Hollow Tree Nursery, Central Lake, MI :

<<http://porkyfarm.com/>> Pat said the origin of his seed was somewhere in Pennsylvania. No one other than Barry had mentioned this place, but it looks pretty good to me.

Minimum quantity that we can order of each species would be 10 trees. Sizes shown are maximum sizes now available (8/12/08). He pointed out that the biggest oaks sell out earliest and if we want to order trees in the spring of '09, we should get our order in as far in advance as possible.

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oak-chinkapin		3/4ft	10	\$9.00	\$90.00
Oak-swamp white		4-5ft	10	\$12.00	\$120.00
Oak-bur		4-5ft	10	\$12.00	\$120.00
Oak-white		12-18in	10	\$6.00	\$60.00

Total: \$390.00
UPS Shipping: \$78.00
Grand Total: \$468.00

Bill Schneider, **Wildtype Nursery, Mason, MI:** <<http://www.wildtypeplants.com/>> Recommended by Sylvia Taylor and others. He knew of virtually no locally-originating stocks/genotypes being available from Ann Arbor area. He did his grad work many years ago with Barnes and Wagner at U of M and seemed very knowledgeable. He also highly recommended that we consider Possibility Place Nursery, and confessed that Wildtype's saplings did not look quite as nice as theirs. He was supposed to call me back with size and price info.

Swamp White Oak: ~1/2" diameter, 2-3' tall,
 White Oak: none available
 Bur Oak: ~1/2" diameter, 2-3' tall,
 Chinkapin Oak: ~1/2" diameter, 2-3' tall,

Kelsay Shaw, Possibility Place Nursery, Monee, IL:
 <<http://www.possibilityplace.com/>> About 250 miles each way to and from Ann Arbor. He did not know geographical sources of original stocks/genotypes. Their delivery charge is \$1.80 per mile, round trip. He suggested that it was far cheaper to rent truck (with 12-14' enclosed box) and drive over and pick trees up there. The following is mostly copied and pasted from their online catalog.

Swamp White Oak:

Pricing Information per unit: 5 Gallon Growing Method

1 to 9	\$20.00
10 to 19	\$18.00
20 or more	\$16.00

Pricing Information: Root Bag Growing Method

1.25 inch	\$75.00
1.5 inch	\$95.00
1.75 inch	\$125.00
2 inch	\$140.00
2.5 inch	\$165.00

Above Ground Plant Material is \$10 more than Root Bag prices.

White Oak:

Pricing Information per unit: 5 Gallon Growing Method

1 to 9	\$20.00
10 to 19	\$18.00
20 or more	\$16.00

Pricing Information: Root Bag Growing Method

1 inch	\$75.00
1.25 inch	\$80.00
1.5 inch	\$100.00

Above Ground Plant Material is \$10 more than Root Bag prices.

Bur Oak:

Pricing Information per unit: 5 Gallon Growing Method

1 to 9	\$20.00
10 to 19	\$18.00
20 or more	\$16.00

Pricing Information: Root Bag Growing Method

1.25 inch	\$75.00
1.5 inch	\$95.00
1.75 inch	\$125.00
2 inch	\$140.00

Above Ground Plant Material is \$10 more than Root Bag prices.

Chinkapin Oak:

Pricing Information per unit: 5 Gallon Growing Method

1 to 9	\$20.00
10 to 19	\$18.00
20 or more	\$16.00

Pricing Information: Root Bag Growing Method

1.25 inch	\$75.00
1.5 inch	\$95.00
1.75 inch	\$125.00
2 inch	\$140.00

Above Ground Plant Material is \$10 more than Root Bag prices.

Remarks: Kelsay is the nursery botanist. Some of their trees are grown by a fabric root bag growing method and not only are lighter and easier for one person to lift and carry but also are reported to have higher survival rates than standard nursery methods (8/5/08 email from Mike Appel, Appel Environmental Design, 416 Longshore Dr., Suite C, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, forwarded previously to Oak Sav. WG: "For the past three years I have been using a nursery in Illinois (<http://www.possibilityplace.com/>) that grows plants from wild collected sources and uses an above ground growing method (basically growing the plants in a potting mix in an above-ground bag). 1.25 inch trees are usually about six feet high with a full crown down to the ground.... The crown down to the ground is a nice touch, and doesn't make your savannah look like the trees came from a golf course. I've planted close to fifty trees of this size, and haven't lost one yet..... I've lost plenty using the traditional "ball and burlap" method."

Also, please see related report at website:

<http://www.possibilityplace.com/Information_Center/Research/research.asp> and click on "View Research" under heading "Bur Oak Study." Kelsay urged that the above trees be planted in September and mulched with (estimated) 5-7 cu. yds. of the (oldest)

ground-up ash tree chips we can get from the city, so that there is 6' diameter circle of mulch, 3" deep, around each tree.. He didn't think any special topsoil needed to be used, and that we could just dig holes 20" across and 10-14" deep in the clay (and use much of the dug-out clay to refill the planting hole around the tree, presumably). If we do any burns during the first ten years of our Oak Savannah, Kelsay said we would need to mow clear an 8-foot-diameter circle around each of our oaks before each burn.

Kelsay recommended that we also plant additional species of trees at the outset in our nascent oak savannah: American Plum, Downy Hawthorn, American Filbert (Hazelnut), Shingle Oak, and Hills Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) [latter oaks are in "red oak group"], and wait to add White Oaks a year later. However, he also said that the Chinkapin Oak was not part of the typical Oak Savannah plant community, contrary to what Michigan Natural Features Inventory has said (click on "Oak Openings" pdf at following website: <http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/pub/abstracts.cfm#Communities>).

I called several local nurseries, but they either did not return my calls or had only large specimen trees of just one or two species, at very high prices. For example, Plymouth Nursery has ten to fifteen 2.5" diameter Swamp White Oak for \$299 plus 60% of that to plant it for us, three 2.5" diameter Chinkapins at \$349 each plus 60% of that to plant each one of them for us, but they're willing to make some sort of deal, apparently. Lodi Farms said that because of their long tap root, White Oaks are very hard to find unless they have been container-grown; they had only a 3" Swamp White Oak for \$225 plus \$120 for delivery plus \$120 for planting. Turner's only had Scarlet Oak available..