

Quercus agrifolia Nee var. *agrifolia*

Coast Live Oak, Encina

Description: Wide-topped evergreen tree (6)10-25 m high with a crown to 30 m wide, trunk bark becoming furrowed widely-ridged checkered dark gray. Leaves oblong-elliptic or ± round tip rounded to spine-toothed margin weakly spine-toothed, upper leaf surface strongly convex (dark) dull green lower surface dull pale green glabrous to sparsely hairy especially at vein axils. Fruit (acorn) maturing in 1 year. Acorn cup obconic scales thin flat ± glabrous brownish, nut slender ovoid tip pointed, shell woolly inside. Flowers in March, acorns mature in October.

Habitat: valleys, dry slopes to mesic canyons in Mixed Evergreen Woodland, Oak Woodland, Coast Live Oak Riparian Woodland; <1,400 m.

Distribution: throughout cismontane California (Mendocino County) to Baja California, Mexico. Not in desert areas.

Landscape Position: Best in dry, open, well-drained locations, all aspects of house in hot valleys and mountains. Give plenty of room. Hardy to USDA Zone 8.

Landscape Attributes: Provides dark green texture, attractive furrowed bark, stately/grand specimen with age. Evergreen requiring NO irrigation. Broad canopy with one or multiple trunks, becoming rounded with age. Provides good shade year round. Very easy to grow from seed, and grows to be most healthy when grown in that fashion in the landscape (and in the wild, of course).

