

PIN OAK

Quercus palustris

Pin Oak takes its name from the great number of pin like or short spur-form branchlets on the main branches. Unlike most oaks which have large heavy horizontal branches, pin oak have a large number of slender branches that arch out gracefully, especially in the lower half of the tree. Medium to large trees are often 80' tall. They have small deeply lobed leaves which give it a soft or fine look. The bark is dark gray with broad fissures and relatively smooth. The twigs are relatively crooked with many short spur twigs (pins). The male flowers are yellow-green, drooping catkins, females inconspicuous, separately on the same plant in late spring. The buds are small, sharp and hairless. The acorns are small with shallow cups (3\8") that are tightly scaled. Pin oak ranks high for its gracious manner of growth and fall coloration of ruby or garnet leaves.



As part of the Arbor Day tree replacement program, 6 Pin Oaks were planted in 2002, and four in 2003, along the inside stone wall that borders east Market Street. Three Pin Oaks were planted in 2005, on the west of Trinity Avenue, on the lower side, midway down the avenue. One Pin Oak was planted in 2010, on the south side of Elm Ave. across from the pond. One was planted in 2011, close to the 16th Street entrance where an old Oak had been removed. In 2012, 1 Pin Oak was planted inside and south of the 16th Street gate between the 1st and 2nd neighbor's house. In 2015, four Pin Oaks were planted by mature Pin Oaks inside the 16th Street entrance by the Woodland Avenue loop: one was planted on the south side of Valley Road inside the 16th Street gate; two are across from each other on the east and west side of the Woodland Avenue loop, closer to Valley Road, and the 4th is on the north side of Trinity Avenue by Section MM. One Pin Oak was planted in 2016 on the Woodland Ave. loop close to Wachter's garage, where a mature Pin Oak had fallen. Many mature Pin Oaks (at least 15) line Trinity and Woodland Avenues in the western portion of the cemetery. And there is a line of Pin Oaks coming up Mt. Laurel Avenue west of the chapel. The Pin Oaks along the Market Street wall are quite spectacular to view in their reddish fall colors whether driving on Market Street, or walking through the cemetery.

