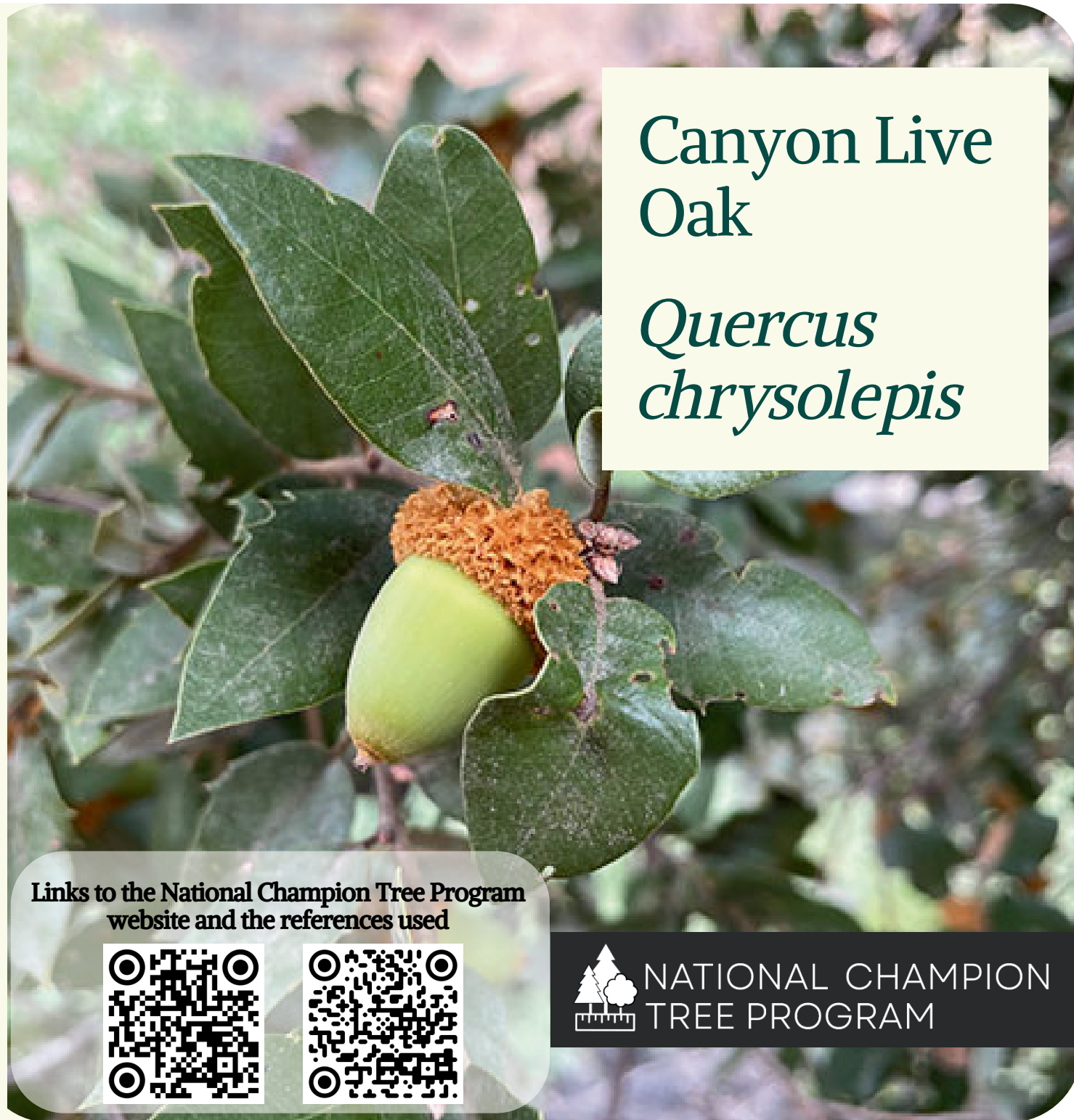




Overview

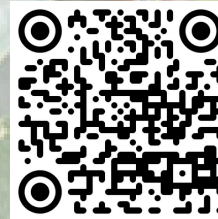
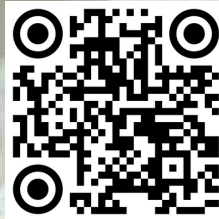
Canyon Live Oak is a highly adaptable oak species that grows on canyon slopes, valley bottoms, and ridge lines. It is the most widespread oak species in the state of California and also grows in the widest variety of conditions. Canyon Live Oak is found in areas that receive as little as 6 inches of annual precipitation to areas that get as much as 110 inches of rain per year! This has led Canyon Live Oak to also be one of the most morphologically variable oaks in North America. These trees can be found in pure stands or as a dominant sub canopy species across its range, as well as an important chaparral species. Fire generally kills the tops of the trees, however Canyon Live Oak is quick to sprout from its root crown, growing one to three feet in the first year. These trees also have very extensive root systems, with some roots reaching 24 feet deep.



Canyon Live
Oak

*Quercus
chrysolepis*

Links to the National Champion Tree Program website and the references used



NATIONAL CHAMPION
TREE PROGRAM

Current Champion Tree Statistics

Nominated in 2012

Circumference: 473 inches

Height: 124 feet

Crown Spread: 98 feet

Located in San Bernardino, CA



Threats

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) (*Phytophthora ramorum*) is emerging as a significant threat for Canyon Live Oaks, and many other associated species. The water mold first arrived in California in 1995, and since then it has been spreading along the West Coast, killing over a million trees. The pathogen creates a canker that spreads and kills the tree. It's not just oaks that are affected by SOD; currently the USDA recognizes 127 known species that are affected or can carry the disease. Not only does this make the impacts of the disease much more significant, but it also makes it much harder to control. SOD spreads via moist air currents that pick up the spores and can carry them to new hosts. However, the pathogen can also be transmitted by humans moving soil and infected plant material, usually unknowingly. This highlights the importance of making sure your outdoor equipment is clean when traveling to different areas because bits of soil and vegetation stuck to boots or tires are able to further the spread of this disease. Currently, “slow the spread” efforts are underway to try to contain this disease, but in the years to come, it will likely continue to have major impacts on our forest.

Importance

Canyon Live Oak is a very important wildlife tree. Large mature trees have been recorded producing over 400 pounds of acorns in one year. All these acorns are a very important food source for many species. The trees also provide valuable cover. Black bear dens are often found in Canyon Live Oak stands in parts of its range.

