

GRAND LIVE OAKS

The majestic live oak trees of the **Grand Hotel** enhance the overall ambiance through- out the resort. An **iconic oak tree image** reflects its significance to The Grand in the **adjacent tree logo**. Through the assistance of a professional tree service, each live oak on the hotel grounds is numbered and tagged (we have 141 oaks on hotel grounds). The trees are inspected semi-annually, maintained, fertilized and treated as necessary. Although conservation efforts are a constant and many of the trees have responded well to the care that has been given to them, some of our lives oaks have declined due to age and environmental stress. The salvaged wood from removed trees is repurposed and utilized in a variety of ways, including the Front Desk area in the main lobby.



Description: Southern live oaks are majestic trees that are emblems of the South. When given enough room to grow, their sweeping limbs plunge toward the ground before shooting upward, creating an impressive array of branches. Crowns of the largest southern live oaks reach diameters of 150 feet – nearly large enough to encompass half a football field! On average, though, the crown spread is 80 feet and the height is 50 feet. Branches usually stem from a single trunk, which can grow to 5 or 6 feet in diameter. Unlike most oak trees which are deciduous, southern live oaks are **nearly evergreen**. **They replace their leaves over a short period of several weeks in the spring.** Sweet, tapered acorns produced by the trees are eaten by birds and mammals, including sapsuckers, mallards, wild turkey, squirrels, black bears, and deer. The threatened Florida scrub jay relies on the scrub form of the southern live oak for nesting. Other birds make use of **the moss that frequently hangs from the tree branches** to construct nests.

Typical Lifespan: southern live oaks are fast growing trees, but their growth rate slows with age. They may reach close to their maximum trunk diameter within 70 years. The oldest live oaks in the country are estimated to be between several hundred to over a thousand years old.

Habitat: **Southern live oaks** grow well in salty soils and in shade, which makes them great competitors against other less tolerant trees. Southern live oaks are confined to warm parts of the country, though, because of their inability to survive freezing temperatures. These trees grow in the wild, but they're also popular ornamental plants with many southerners.

Range: AS their scientific name *Quercus virginiana* suggest, southern live oaks are found in Virginia and from Virginia south to Florida and west to Texas and Oklahoma.

Life History and Reproduction: Flowers of the southern live oak are not bright and showy like those of some other trees. They are small, brown, and **pollinated by wind in spring**. **Acorns fall in autumn** and serve as a food source for many animals.

Fun Fact: Wood from southern live oaks is incredibly tough and durable. The naval vessel USS Constitution was nicknamed "Old Ironsides" after her live oak hull survived repeated cannon fire during the War of 1812.

Conservation Status: Despite their incredibly strong wood, southern live oaks are not used much for timber anymore, though they were once the preferred tree for use in shipbuilding. Their biggest threats are several pest and disease, including wilt disease, which is most prevalent in Texas. They are also susceptible to freezing temperatures and acid rain.



For More information:
Please contact Grand Hotel Grounds Department

Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa
One Grand Boulevard
PO Box 639 Point Clear, Alabama 36564
Office 251-990-6201 Ext. 6528
Fax 251-990-4283
www.Grand1847.com

"Where Hospitality and History Come Together in Grand Style"