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**The Silva of North America**

Cupuliferae (Quercus)

**Sargent, Charles Sprague**

**Boston and New York, MDCCCXCV [1895]**

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Quercus acuminata.

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## QUERCUS ACUMINATA.

Yellow Oak. Chestnut Oak.

LEAVES oblong or lanceolate, acute or acuminate, or broadly obovate, equally sinuately toothed, puberulous, pale, and often silvery white on the lower surface.

*Quercus acuminata*, Sargent, *Garden and Forest*, viii. 93 (1895).

*Quercus Prinus acuminata*, Michaux, *Hist. Chênes Am.* No. 5, t. 8 (1801); *Fl. Bor.-Am.* ii. 196. — Michaux f. *Hist. Arb. Am.* ii. 61, t. 9. — *Nouveau Duhamel*, vii. 167. — Gray, *Man.* ed. 5, 451. — A. de Candolle, *Prodr.* xvi. pt. ii. 21. — Wesmael, *Bull. Féd. Soc. Hort. Belg.* 1869, 339. — Houba, *Chênes Am. en Belgique*, 284.

*Quercus Castanea*, Willdenow, *Muehlenberg & Willdenow Neue Schrift. Gesell. Nat. Fr. Berlin*, iii. 396 (not Née) (1801); *Spec.* iv. pt. i. 441; *Enum.* 976; *Berl. Baumz.* ed. 2, 341. — Persoon, *Syn.* ii. 569. — Bosc, *Mém. Inst. Nat. Sci. Phys. Math.* viii. pt. i. 341. — Stokes, *Bot. Mat. Med.* iv. 407. — Pursh, *Fl. Am. Sept.* ii. 634. — Poiret, *Lam. Dict. Suppl.* ii. 219. — Nuttall, *Gen.* ii. 216. — Hayne, *Dendr. Fl.* 156. — Elliott, *Sk.* ii. 610. —

Sprengel, *Syst.* iii. 860. — Spach, *Hist. Vég.* xi. 158. — Torrey, *Fl. N. Y.* ii. 193. — Gray, *Man.* 416. — Darlington, *Fl. Cestr.* ed. 3, 267. — Brendel, *Trans. Ill. Agric. Soc.* iii. 619, t. 4. — Curtis, *Rep. Geolog. Surv. N. Car.* 1860, iii. 34. — Chapman, *Fl.* 424. — Örsted, *Vidensk. Medd. fra nat. For. Kjöbenh.* 1866, 68; *Liebmann Chênes Am. Trop.* t. H, K, 33, f. 31, 32. — Vasey, *Am. Ent. and Bot.* ii. 281, f. 173. — Dippel, *Handb. Laubholzk.* 86, f. 36. — Koehne, *Deutsche Dendr.* 127.

*Quercus Muehlenbergii*, Engelm., *Trans. St. Louis Acad.* iii. 391 (1877). — Britton, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club*, xiii. 40.

*Quercus prinoides*, Sargent, *Forest Trees N. Am.* 10th *Census U. S.* ix. 142 (in part) (not Willdenow) (1884). — Mayr, *Wald. Nordam.* 145, t. 1, 2.

A tree, from eighty to one hundred or occasionally one hundred and sixty feet in height, with a tall straight trunk three or four feet in diameter above the broad and often buttressed base and comparatively small branches which form a shapely narrow round-topped head; or east of the Alleghany Mountains and on dry hills often not more than twenty or thirty feet tall. The bark of the trunk is rarely more than half an inch in thickness and is broken on the surface into thin loose silvery gray or nearly white scales, sometimes slightly tinged with brown. The branchlets are slender and marked with scattered pale lenticels, and when they first appear are green, more or less tinged with red or purple, and pilose with scattered pale hairs; during their first winter they are light orange-colored or reddish brown, and, gradually growing darker, become dark brown or orange-colored in their second year, and ultimately gray or brown. The buds are ovate, acute, from an eighth to nearly a quarter of an inch in length, and covered with chestnut-brown scales white and scarious on the margins. The leaves, which are usually crowded at the ends of the branches, are convolute in the bud, oblong or lanceolate or broadly obovate, abruptly or gradually narrowed and wedge-shaped or slightly narrowed and rounded or cordate at the base, acute, or acuminate at the apex with long and narrow or with short and broad points, equally serrate except at the base, the teeth, which are acute and often inflexed or broad and rounded, being tipped with small glandular mucros; or the leaves are rarely slightly undulate; when they unfold they are bright bronzy green and puberulous on the upper surface, and tinged with purple, and coated on the lower with pale tomentum which soon disappears, leaving in the axils of the veins tufts of pale hairs which are very conspicuous when the leaves are about half grown; at maturity they are thick and firm in texture, light yellow-green above, pale, often silvery white, and coated with short fine pubescence below, from four to seven inches long, and from one to five inches broad, with stout yellow midribs impressed on the upper side, and conspicuous primary veins running obliquely to the points of the teeth and connected by reticulate cross veinlets; they are borne on slender nearly terete or slightly flattened petioles varying from three quarters of an inch to an inch and a half in length, and in the

autumn, before falling, turn orange-color and scarlet.<sup>1</sup> The stipules are linear-obovate or lanceolate, pilose, brown and scarious, and caducous. The aments of staminate flowers are three or four inches long, with slender yellow-green pilose stems, and, appearing with the unfolding of the leaves, do not fall until they are nearly half grown; the calyx is light yellow, hairy, and deeply divided into lanceolate ciliate segments; the anthers are oblong, slightly emarginate, yellow, and glabrous. The pistillate flowers, which are sessile or borne in short spikes, are coated, like their peduncles, with thick white tomentum; the stigmas are bright red. The fruit is sessile or raised on a short stout peduncle, and is solitary or often in pairs; the nut is broadly ovate or oval, narrowed and rounded at the pubescent apex, from half an inch to nearly an inch in length, light chestnut-brown, and contains a sweet sometimes edible seed; the cup, which embraces about half the nut, is cup-shaped, thin, light brown and pubescent on the inner, and hoary-tomentose on the outer surface, which is covered with small obtuse scales, more or less thickened and rounded on the back toward the base of the cup, the small free red-brown points of the upper ranks forming a minute fringe-like border to its rim.<sup>2</sup>

*Quercus acuminata* is distributed from Gardner's Island, in Lake Champlain, and the banks of the Hudson River north of the city of Newburgh, westward through southern Ontario<sup>3</sup> to southeastern Nebraska<sup>4</sup> and eastern Kansas,<sup>5</sup> and southward in the Atlantic states to the District of Columbia<sup>6</sup> and the valley of the upper Potomac River and, west of the Alleghany Mountains, to central Alabama and Mississippi, and through Arkansas<sup>7</sup> and northern Louisiana to the eastern borders of the Indian Territory and to the valley of the Nueces River in Texas, reaching the western limits of its range in the cañons of the Guadalupe Mountains in the extreme western part of this state.<sup>8</sup> Rare and comparatively local in the Atlantic states, where it is usually found on limestone soil, it is exceedingly abundant in the Mississippi basin, growing on limestone ridges or sometimes on dry flinty hills and on deep rich bottom lands and the rocky banks of streams, and probably attains its largest size on the bottoms of the lower Wabash River and its tributaries in southern Indiana and Illinois.<sup>9</sup>

The wood of *Quercus acuminata* is heavy, hard, very strong, close-grained, and durable in contact with the soil, but liable to check badly in drying. It is dark brown, with thin light-colored sapwood, and contains broad conspicuous medullary rays and bands of small open ducts marking the layers of annual growth. The specific gravity of the absolutely dry wood is 0.8605, a cubic foot weighing 53.63 pounds. It is largely used in cooperage and the manufacture of wheels, for fencing, and for railway ties.

Its tall straight stem, its pale and often snow-white bark, and its long leaves hanging close to the branches or fluttering on their slender stalks with the faintest breeze, now yellow-green and then silvery

<sup>1</sup> In the Atlantic states the leaves of this tree are usually oblong-lanceolate and long-acuminate, with sharp often inflexed teeth, and are from four to six inches in length and from one to two inches in width. West of the Alleghany Mountains, especially when growing on deep rich bottom-lands, it produces, even on fertile branches, broader obovate mostly short-pointed and larger leaves with broad, rounded teeth. Such leaves, while they resemble in outline those of *Quercus Prinus*, can be distinguished from them by the presence of the glandular tips on the teeth. Ovate acute leaves, rounded at the broad bases with only slightly undulate glandular margins, were found in 1879 near the Chain Bridge, in the District of Columbia, by L. F. Ward, whose specimens are preserved in the National Herbarium.

<sup>2</sup> A tree found by Mr. E. J. Hill at Robey, Indiana, in 1892, is possibly a hybrid between *Quercus acuminata* and *Quercus macrocarpa*. The leaves are oblong or slightly obovate, acute, dark green and lustrous on the upper surface, and silvery white and pubescent on the lower. Some individuals are regularly sinuately lobed with small acute or rounded gland-tipped lobes, and others

are deeply divided in the middle by a pair of broad oblique sinuses, the upper half of the leaf being sinuately lobed and the lower divided into two pairs of narrow acute and usually entire lobes. The fruit is short-stalked, with an oval pilose nut half an inch long, inclosed to the acute apex in a deep cup-shaped cup, with the hoary basal scales of *Quercus macrocarpa*, but without its marginal fringe.

<sup>3</sup> Macoun, *Cat. Can. Pl.* 442.

<sup>4</sup> Bessey, *Rep. State Board Agric. Nebraska*, 1894, 110 (*Quercus prinoides*).

<sup>5</sup> Mason, *Eighth Bienn. Rep. State Board Agric. Kansas*, 272; *Garden and Forest*, iv. 508.

<sup>6</sup> L. F. Ward, *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* No. 22, 113 (*Fl. Washington*).

<sup>7</sup> Harvey, *Am. Jour. Forestry*, i. 454.

According to Professor Harvey, *Quercus acuminata* is also called in Arkansas Chinquapin Oak, Pin Oak, and Rock Oak.

<sup>8</sup> Havard, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* viii. 105.

<sup>9</sup> Ridgway, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* v. 82; xvii. 415.

white as first the upper and then the lower surface is turned to the eye, make the Yellow Oak one of the most beautiful trees of the regions in which it attains its finest development. Little known in cultivation, although it is said to have been planted in England in 1822,<sup>1</sup> the Yellow Oak is well worthy of a place in the parks and pleasure-grounds of the eastern United States.

<sup>1</sup> Loudon, *Arb. Brit.* iii. 1875, f. 1637.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

PLATE CCCLXXVII. QUERCUS ACUMINATA.

1. A flowering branch, natural size.
2. A staminate flower, enlarged.
3. A pistillate flower, enlarged.
4. A fruiting branch, natural size.
5. A leaf, natural size.
6. A winter branchlet, natural size.
7. An axillary winter-bud, enlarged.



C.E. Faxon del.

Himely sc.

QUERCUS ACUMINATA, Sarg.

A. Riocreux direx.

Imp. J. Taneur, Paris.

