

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
LEXINGTON, KY, 40546



FOR-1

A photograph of a forest in autumn. The trees have vibrant orange, yellow, and red leaves. The trunks of the trees are dark and vertical, creating a sense of depth. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape under a blue sky.

Identifying Kentucky's **Forest Trees**



Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development



31. **CHINKAPIN OAK**
(Quercus muehlenbergii Englem.)

Soil/Site

- prefers dry slopes in shallow soils from limestone origin

Bark

- ashy gray; flaky; shallowly fissured
- broken with irregular, squarish scales

Twigs

- reddish to straw brown; slender; lenticellate
- initially hairy, becoming smooth

Buds

- 3/16" (0.5 cm) long; orange-brown; scales with gray margin
- sharp-pointed; smooth

Flowers

- 3" (7.5 cm) long; male—catkins; female—yellow flower spikes
- early spring

Fruit

- 3/5" (1.5 cm) long; dark brown to black; enclosed 1/3 by woolly cup
- autumn

Value

- acorns for wildlife
- useful timber tree

Leaves

size

- 4" to 6" (10.0 to 15.0 cm) long; 1 1/2" to 3 1/2" (3.8 to 8.8 cm) wide

arrangement

- alternate; simple

margin (edge)

- coarsely serrate (white oak group); each tooth bears a gland at the tip

lobes

- none

shape

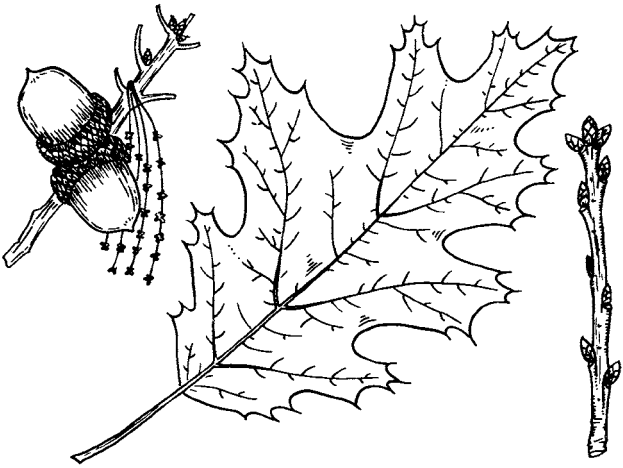
- oblong

surface

- bright green, smooth above; pale green, smooth below

coloration

- brown or red (autumn)



32. NORTHERN RED OAK

(*Quercus rubra* L.)

Soil/Site

- best on moist, upland soils with good drainage

Bark

- greenish brown, becoming black with age
- wide, flat ridges with deep black furrows (resemble ski tracks)

Twigs

- reddish to greenish brown; moderately stout; smooth

Buds

- 1/4" (0.6 cm) long; dark reddish brown; shiny
- smooth to slightly pubescent; overlapping scales

Flowers

- 4" (10.0 cm) long; male—catkins; female—yellow flower spikes

Fruit

- 1" (2.5 cm) long; reddish brown; enclosed in a flat saucer-like cup; shiny
- autumn

Value

- acorns for wildlife
- valuable timber and landscape tree

Leaves

size

- 5" to 9" (12.5 to 22.5 cm) long; 4" to 5" (10.0 to 12.5 cm) wide

arrangement

- alternate; simple

margin (edge)

- entire

lobes

- 7 to 11 lobes with bristle tips (red oak group) pinnately arranged; sinuses cut 1/2 distance to midrib from edge

shape

- lobed (oblong)

surface

- shiny green, smooth above; dull green, smooth below

coloration

- dark red (autumn)