

LOBLOLLY-BAY

Gordonia lasianthus (L.) Ellis

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Tan bay, Black laurel.

FORM: 60-75 feet high with a tall straight trunk 18-20 inches in diameter, small branches grow upward at first, finally spreading into a narrow compact crown.

BARK: Nearly 1 inch thick on a mature trunk, divided into regular parallel ridges, their surface dark brown, scaly, broken into shallow furrows.

TWIGS: Dark brown, rugose, marked during several years by the horizontal slightly raised leaf scars.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, leathery, lanceolate to oblong, acute at the apex, narrowed to the cuneate base, finely or remotely crenately serrate usually above the middle, dark green, lustrous, 4-5 inches long, 1 1/2-2 inches wide.

FLOWERS: White, pungently fragrant, about 2 1/2 inches in diameter, expanding in July and continuing to open successfully during two or three months, on stout red pedicels, 2 1/2-3 inches long.

FRUIT: A capsule, ovoid, acute, pubescent, 3/4 inch long, 1/2 inch in diameter; seed winged, nearly square, rugose, dotted with small pale brown excrescences, nearly 1/16 inch long, wing pointed or rounded at the apex.

WINTER BUDS: 1/4-1/3 inch long, covered with a pale lustrous pubescence.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, not durable, light red with lighter colored sapwood of 40-50 annual rings.

USES: Pulp.

HABITAT: Shallow swamps and moist depressions.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Tree with watery juice; leaves persistent and coriaceous; seeds winged; axillary buds naked.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Mobile and Geneva Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 7. Vertical section of an ovary |
| 2. A fruiting branch | 8. An ovule |
| 3. Diagram of a flower | 9. Vertical section of a capsule |
| 4. Vertical section of a flower | 10. Vertical section of a seed |
| 5. An anther, posterior view | 11. An embryo |
| 6. An anther, anterior view | 12. Cross section of an embryo |



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