

SHUMARD OAK

Quercus shumardii Buckl.

FORM: In the forest on a good site this species can become a large, straight tree with broad, rounded, open crown; reaching mature heights of 90-125 feet and diameters of 1-2 & 1/2 feet.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, deciduous, obovate; 6-8" long, 4-6" wide; apex, acuminate; base, wedge-shaped or flattened; margin with 7-9 keeplly divided bristle-tipped lobes, often subdivided into secondary lobes by rounded sinuses; dark green and glabrous above, paler below and with tufts of axillary hairs in vein angles.

BARK: Gray and smooth; becoming dark gray and slightly furrowed into ridges with age.

TWIGS: Moderately stout; glabrous, gray-brown.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal buds, 1/4" long, ovoid, acute, usually angled, gray-brown; lateral buds, similar but shorter.

FLOWERS: Unisexual; the staminate in a glabrous, 6-7" catkins; the pistillate, solitary or paired, borne on pubescent stalks.

FRUIT: Acorn, solitary or in pairs; the nut is up to 1 1/2" long and 1" diameter; shallow, caucer-shaped cup with tightly overlapping, blunt scales.

HABITAT: Most abundant on deep, rich, bottomland soils along stream and swamp borders; usually occurring as an occasional tree in mixed hardwood forests.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: The trunk of these trees may be slightly buttressed on wet sites, but otherwise symmetrical and uncommonly clear for most of its length.

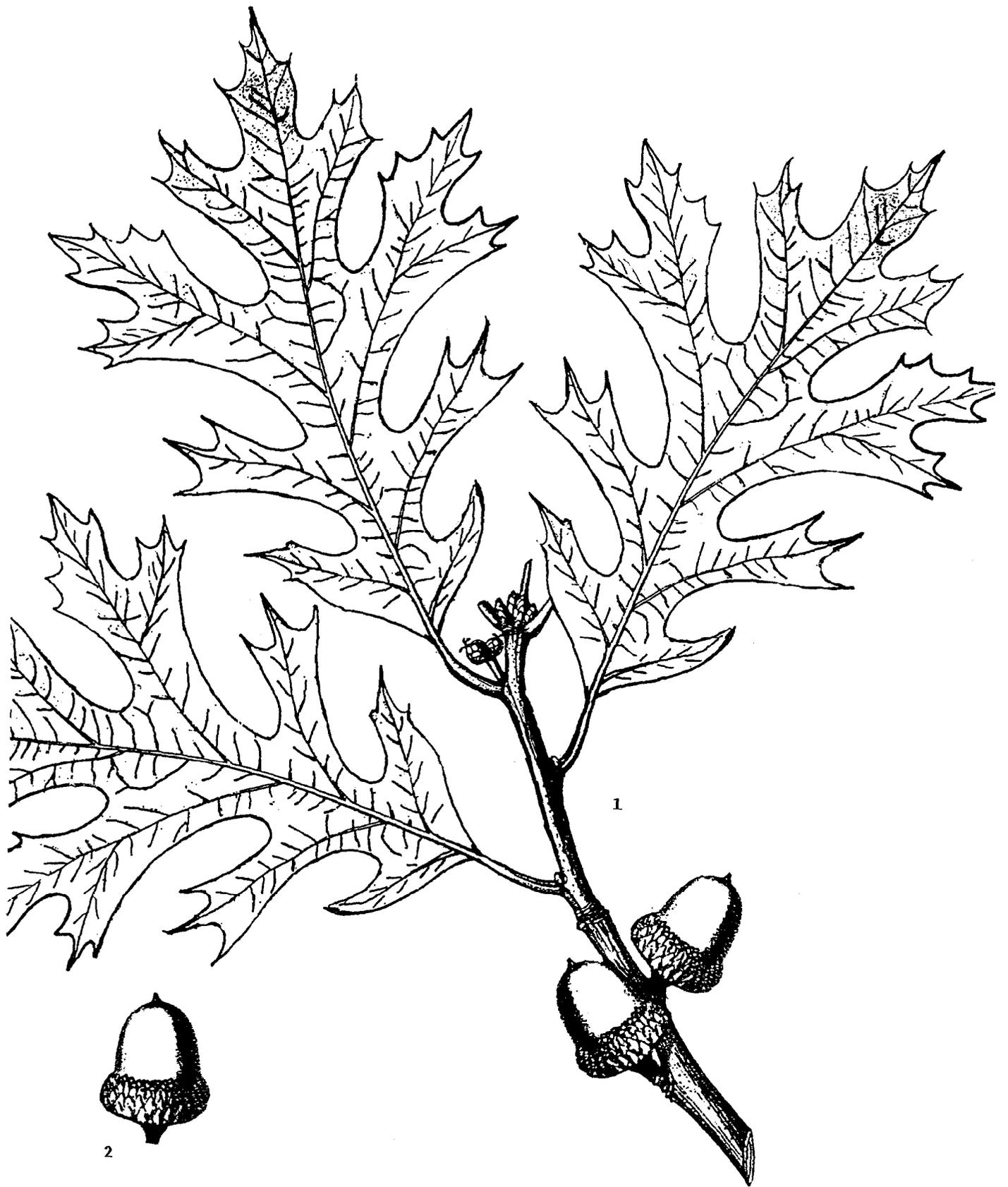
WOOD: Generally straight-grained, heavy and hard with very good working capabilities.

USES: A very important timber species used for flooring, furniture, molding and cabinetry; incidental uses as firewood and pulpwood. Good landscaping species if well cared for.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: May occur almost anywhere in the state, but more common in bottomlands and swamps of the coastal plains and rare in the Appalachians and Piedmont.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

1. A fruiting branch
2. A fruit



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