

SWAMP CHESTNUT OAK

Quercus michauxii Nutt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Basket oak, Cow oak, White oak.

FORM: Often 100 feet high, 3-7 feet in diameter, trunk sometimes free of branches 40-50 feet, branches ascend at narrow angles and form a round-topped rather compact head.

BARK: 1/2-1 inch thick, separating into thin closely appressed silvery-white or ashy-gray scales, more or less deeply tinged with red.

TWIGS: Bright red-brown or orange-brown their first winter, ultimately ashy-gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, broadly obovate to oblong-obovate, acute or acuminate at apex with a short broad point, cuneate or rounded at the broad or narrow base, regularly crenately lobed, with oblique rounded entire lobes, sometimes with glandular tips or rarely entire with undulate margins, thick and firm, dark green lustrous above, pubescent on the pale green or silvery-white lower side, 6-8 inches long, 3-6 inches wide; resembles leaf of the chestnut.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate, yellow, in interrupted filiform hairy aments 3-4 inches long; pistillate in few-flowered spikes.

FRUIT: Matures the first year; nut ovoid or ellipsoidal, with a broad base, acute, rounded, occasionally truncate at apex, bright brown, 1-1 1/2 inch long, 3/4-1 1/4 inch thick, enclosed about 1/3 of its length in the thick cup-shaped cut, seed sweet and edible.

WINTER BUDS: Broadly ovoid or oval, acute, 1/4 inch long, scales dark red, puberulous with pale margins.

WOOD: Heavy, hard, strong, tough, close-grained, durable, light brown, with thin darker colored

USES: Lumber, pulp, furniture, firewood.

HABITAT: Borders of streams, swamps, bottom-lands often covered with water.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: The shape and lobing of the leaves; the closely appressed silvery-white or ashy-gray scales of the bark; large nuts.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Grows mostly in river and creek bottoms, fairly well distributed throughout the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

1. A fruiting branch
2. A nut
3. A winter branchlet



***Quercus michauxii* Nutt.**