

# BLACKJACK OAK

*Quercus marilandica* Muenchh.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Blackjack, Barren oak, Black oak, Jack oak.

FORM: Usually 20-30 feet high, trunk diameter rarely more than 12 inches, occasionally 40-50 feet tall, short stout spreading branches, often forming a narrow compact rounded crown, or sometimes open and irregular.

BARK: 1-1 1/2 inches thick, brown or black, rough with deep fissures, separating into squarish plates.

TWIGS: At first coated with thick pale tomentum, light brown and scurfy pubescent, ultimately brown or ashy-gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, broadly obovate, rounded or cordate at base, 3- (rarely 5) lobed at apex, lobes rounded or acute, margin entire or dentate and bristle-tipped, leathery, dark green and lustrous above, rusty-brown and pubescent below, usually 6-7 inches long.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in hoary aments 2-4 inches long, anthers dark red; pistillate on short rusty-tomentose peduncles, stigmas dark red.

FRUIT: Matures the second year; nut oblong, pale chestnut-brown, often striate, rounded at apex, about 3/4 of an inch long, enclosed 1/3 to nearly 2/3 of its length in a turbinate, thick, pale brown cup covered by large reddish-brown, loosely overlapping scales, with small scales forming a thick rim around its margin.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid or oval, prominently angled, light red-brown, coated with rusty-brown hairs, about 1/4 of an inch long.

WOOD: Heavy, hard, strong, dark rich brown, with thick lighter colored sapwood.

USES: Pulp, firewood. Historical uses: Charcoal, tannin.

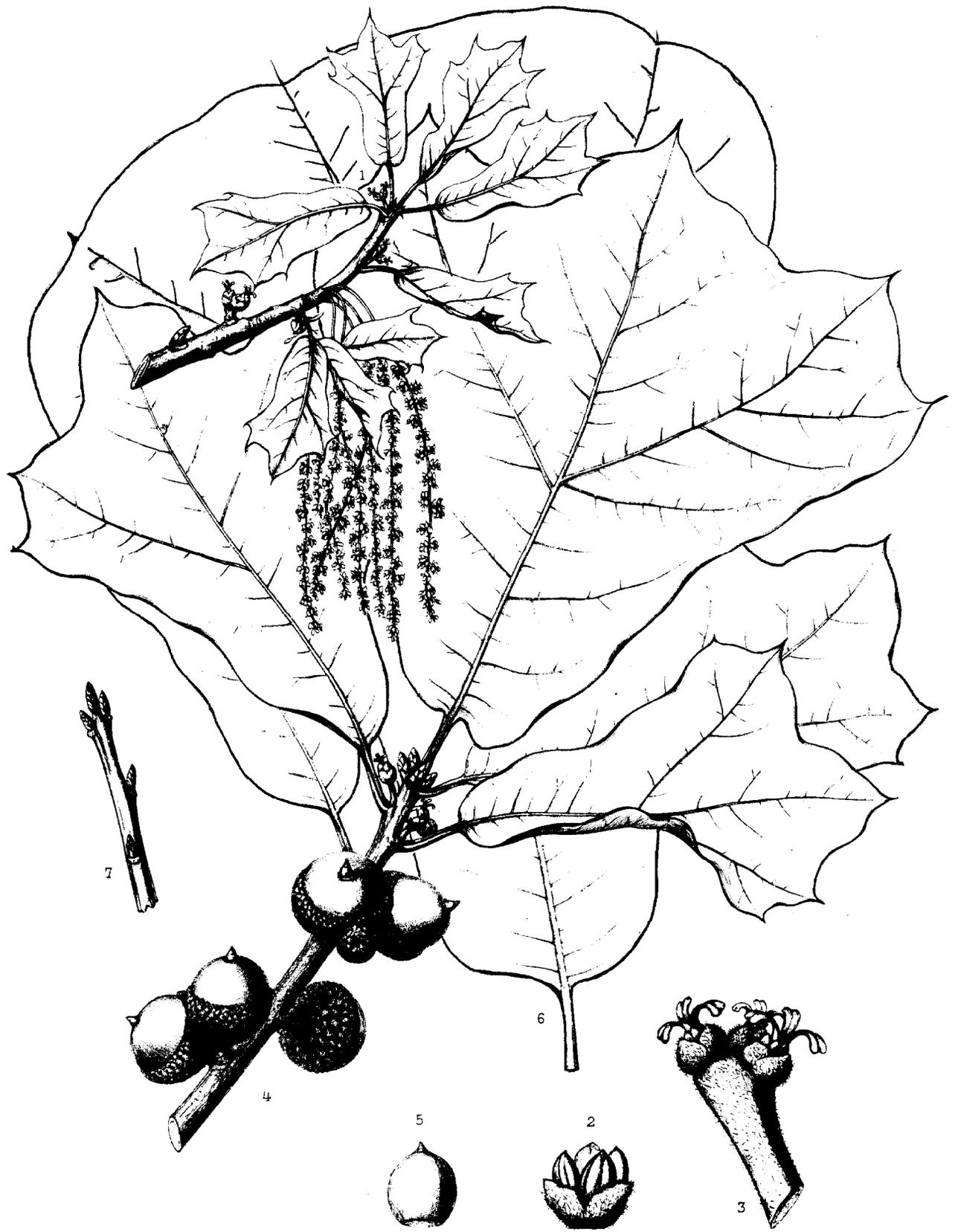
HABITAT: Common on cut-over pine sites; dry or clay barrens; sterile soils adverse for most tree species,

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Large obovate leaves, 3-5 lobed above the middle; sharp-pointed, angular, somewhat hairy buds; acorn enclosed 1/3 to nearly 2/3 of its length in a thick turbinate, light brown cup.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Common throughout the state, especially on iron-rich soils.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch         | 5. A nut              |
| 2. A staminate flower         | 6. A leaf             |
| 3. A pistillate inflorescence | 7. A winter branchlet |
| 4. A fruiting branch          |                       |



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