

BUR OAK

Quercus macrocarpa Michx.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Blue oak, Mossycup oak, Mossy-over-cup oak.

FORM: Sometimes 170 feet high, trunk 6-7 feet in diameter, may be clear of limbs 70-80 feet above the ground, with a broad head of great spreading branches; usually not more than 80 feet high, trunk diameter 3-4 feet.

BARK: 1-2 inches thick, deeply furrowed and broken on the surface into irregular plate-like brown scales.

TWIGS: Stout, coated at first with soft pale deciduous pubescence, ultimately dark brown, sometimes with corky wings 1-1 1/2 inch wide.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, 6-12 inches long, 3-6 inches wide; sometimes pilose on upper side, pubescent on lower; obovate or oblong, cuneate or occasionally narrow and rounded at base, divided by wide sinuses into 5-7 lobes, terminal lobe large, oval or obovate, regularly crenately lobed, rounded or acute at apex.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in interrupted hairy filiform aments 4-6 inches long, borne on the growth of the preceding season or from the axils of the inner scales of the terminal bud, calyx yellowish-green; pistillate sessile or pedunculate, borne in the axils of the leaves of the season.

FRUIT: Matures first year, variable in size and shape; nut ellipsoidal or broadly ovoid, broad at base, rounded or depressed at apex, covered with soft pale pubescence; 3/5 inch long and 1/3 inch thick in the north; sometimes 2 inches long and 1 1/2 inch thick in the south; cup thick or thin, light brown, downy on inner side, outside covered with overlapping scales, forming a distinct fringe near the upper edge.

WINTER BUDS: Broadly ovoid, acute, or obtuse, 1/8-1/4 inch long with light red-brown scales coated with soft pale pubescence.

WOOD: Heavy, strong, hard, tough, close-grained, very durable, dark or rich light brown, with thin lighter colored sapwood.

USES: Lumber, pulp, furniture, firewood, landscaping.

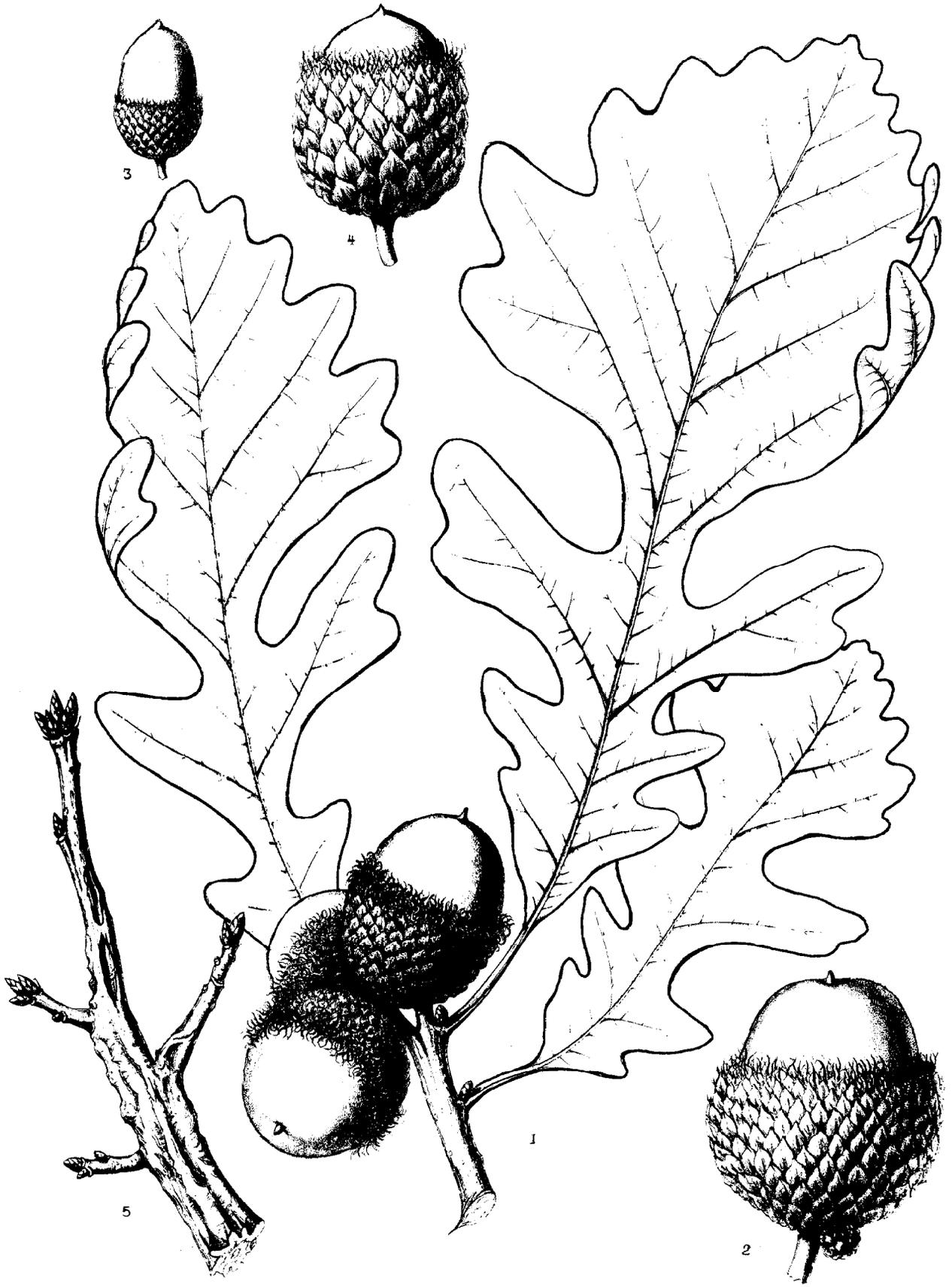
HABITAT: Low rich bottom-lands and intervals, rarely on dry hills.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Distinctly fringed cups; leaves have deep rounded sinuses that reach almost to the midrib; corky winged projections on the small branches; mature bark divided by deep furrows into irregular, scaly plates.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Very limited but reported one-half mile west of Snowdown, Montgomery County, Alabama.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. A branch with immature fruit | 5. A fruit |
| 2. A fruit | 6. A leaf |
| 3. A fruit | 7. A leaf |
| 4. A fruit | |



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