

CHERRYBARK OAK

Quercus falcata var. *pagodaefolia* Ell.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Bottomland red oak, Elliot oak, Red oak, Swamp oak, Swamp Spanish oak.

FORM: May reach height of 120 feet, diameter 4-5 feet, branches form short narrow crown in the forest; in the open, a wide spreading head.

BARK: About 1 inch thick, roughened by small rather closely appressed plate-like, light gray, gray-brown or dark brown scales.

TWIGS: At first hoary tomentose, tomentose or pubescent first winter, later dark reddish-brown.

LEAVES: Alternate; simple, elliptic to oblong, acuminate, gradually cuneate or rarely truncate at base, deeply divided by wide sinuses, rounded in the bottom into 5-11 acuminate usually repand-dentate lobes often falcate and spreading at right angles to the midrib or pointed toward the apex of the leaf; maturity dark green, very lustrous above, pale and tomentose below, 6-8 inches long, 5-6 inches wide.

FLOWERS: Flowers as in *Quercus falcata* Michx.

FRUIT: Without or with a very short stalk; acorn ripens the second year; nut varies from short ovate to subglobose, light yellow-brown, puberulous toward the rounded apex, about 5/8 inch in diameter with thin shell lined with pale tomentum tinged with red; the cup which encloses nearly 1/2 of the nut is flat or slightly turbinate on the bottom.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid, acute, often 4-angled, about 1/4 inch in length, with light red-brown puberulous scales.

WOOD: Light reddish-brown with thin sapwood.

USES: Lumber, pulp, furniture, cabinets, veneer, millwork, fuel. Historical uses: tannin, medicine.

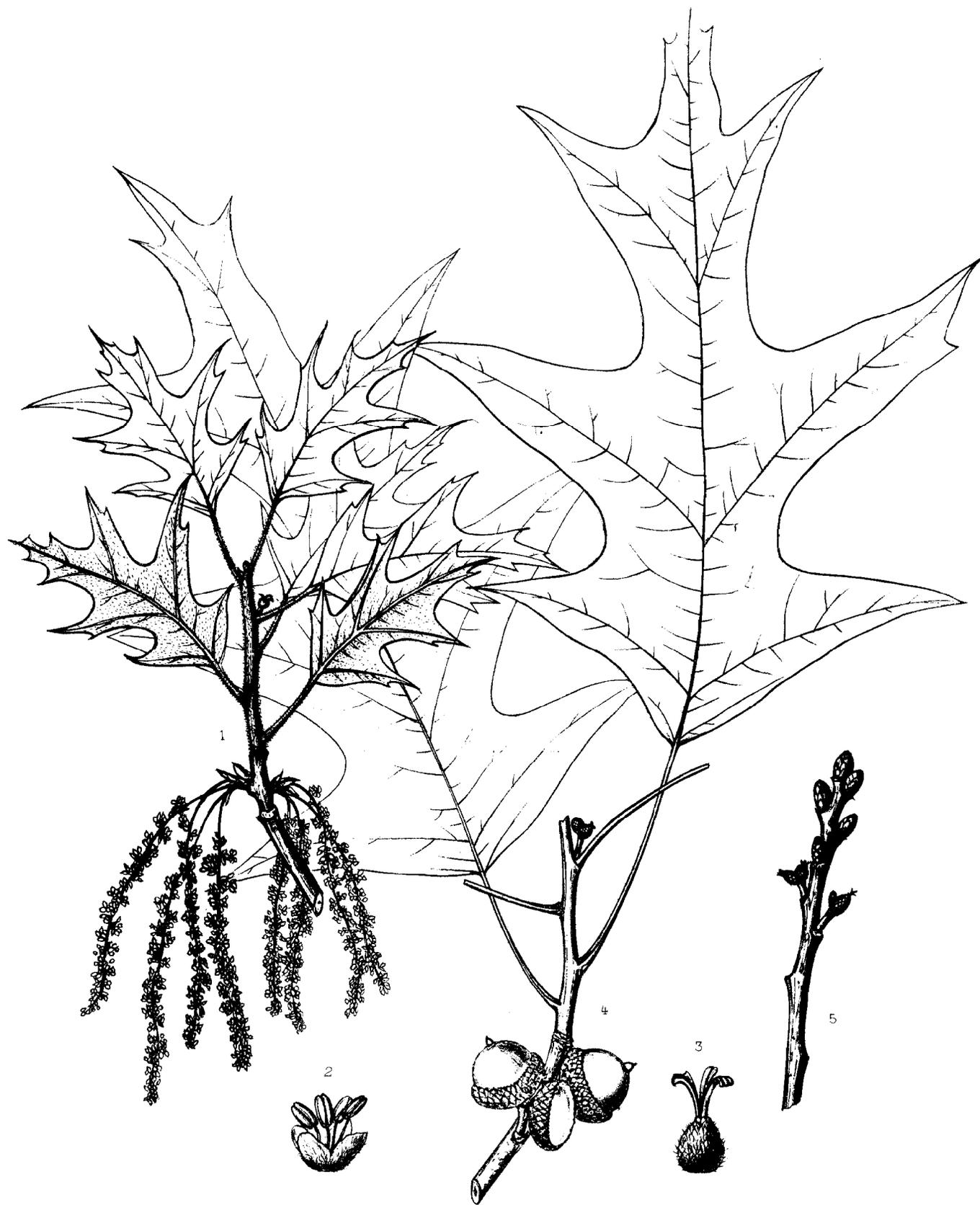
HABITAT: Rich bottom-lands and alluvial flats.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves deeply divided by wide sinuses rounded at the bottom into 5-11 lobes that spread at right angles to the midrib; bark roughened by small rather closely appressed scales; short narrow crown in the forest; in the open a great open head.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: In alluvial bottoms of creeks and rivers. Reported from Morgan, Etowah, St. Clair, Jefferson, Talladega, Franklin, Chilton, Hale, Autauga, Sumter, Lowndes, Wilcox, Marengo, Choctaw, and Monroe Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch | 4. A fruiting branch |
| 2. A staminate flower | 5. A winter branchlet |
| 3. A pistillate flower | |



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