

NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Gray oak, Eastern red oak, Red oak.

FORM: Usually 70-80 feet high, diameter 2-4 feet, occasionally 150 feet tall; in the open, trunk short, massive, soon breaking up into stout limbs forming a broad symmetrical head; in dense stands, bole continues into narrow round-topped head.

BARK: Mature bark dark brown, thick, divided by shallow fissures into regular, continuous flat-topped ridges, scaly at the surface.

TWIGS: Slender, smooth greenish-brown to dark brown, lenticels pale, indistinct.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, oblong to oval-obovate, 5-9 inches long, 4-6 inches wide, 7-11 lobed, with sinuses extending half way to the midrib, lobes usually sinuately 3-toothed and bristle-tipped, dark green above, paler and glabrous below.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in pubescent aments 4-5 inches long, calyx divided into 4-5 ovate rounded lobes; pistillate on short glabrous peduncles, stigmas bright green.

FRUIT: An acorn, borne solitary or in pairs, ripening the second season; nut oblong-ovoid, chestnut-brown, round-pointed at the apex, $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length enclosed in the cup, cup saucer-shaped, pubescent within.

WINTER BUDS: Alternate, $\frac{1}{6}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, near the tip of the branch clustered about the terminal bud which is ovate, acute, light chestnut-brown.

WOOD: Hard, heavy, strong, close-grained, pale reddish-brown with paler sapwood.

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

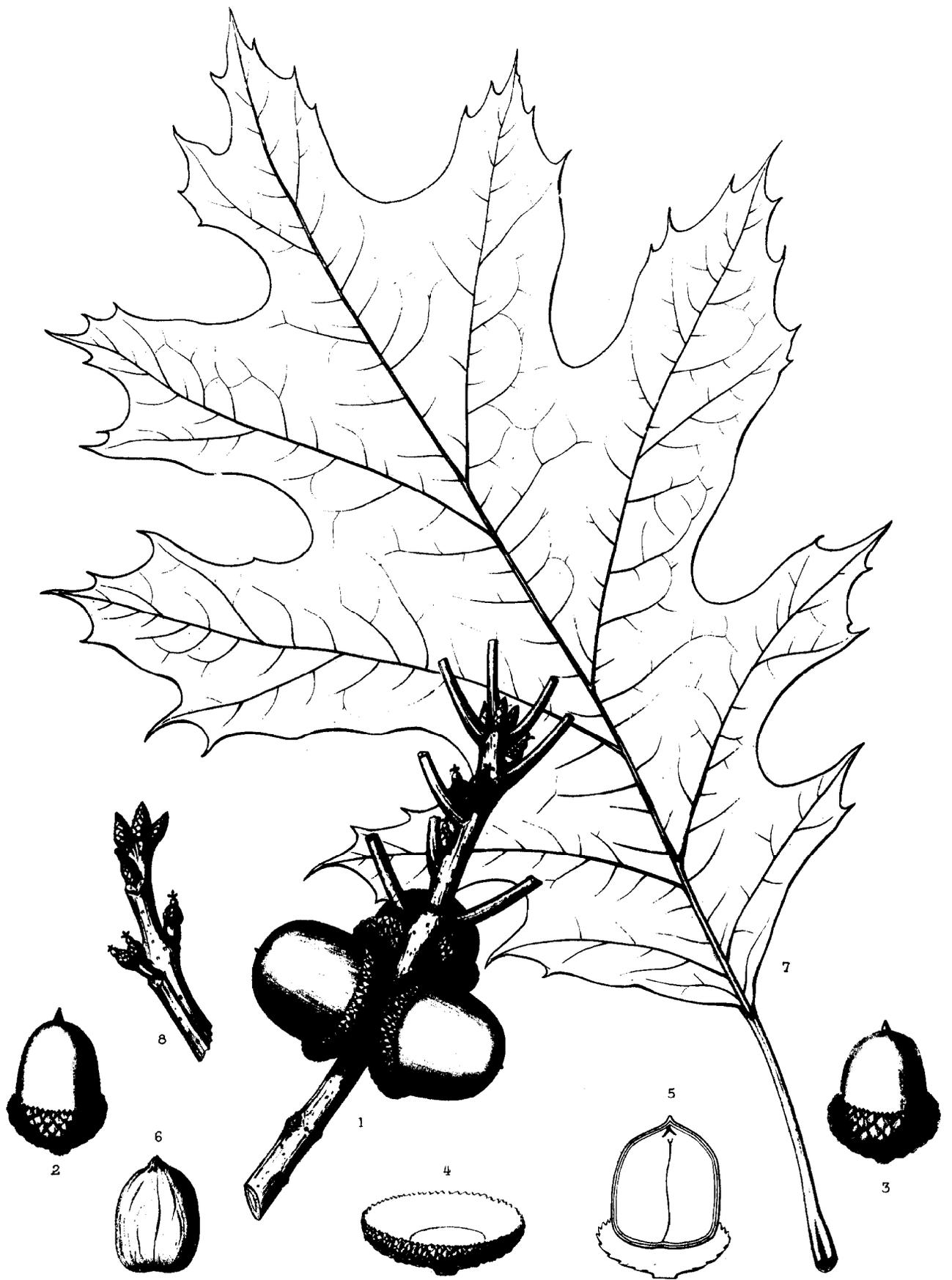
HABITAT: Well-drained site, gravelly or sandy or clay loams; intolerant to wet soils.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: The flat-topped ridges of the mature bark; the light reddish inner bark; the sharp-pointed, light brown buds which are often constricted at the base; large acorns with broad shallow cups.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: More or less generally distributed from Northern Alabama as far south as Monroe and Clarke Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 50

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| 1. A fruiting branch | 5. Vertical section of a fruit |
| 2. A fruit | 6. A seed |
| 3. A fruit | 7. A leaf |
| 4. A cup | 8. A fertile winter branchlet |



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