

OVERCUP OAK

Quercus lyrata Walt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Swamp post oak, Swamp white oak, Water white oak, White oak.

FORM: May attain a height of 100 feet, with trunk diameter 2-3 feet, trunk generally divided 15-20 feet above ground into comparatively small, often pendulous branches forming a symmetrical round-topped head.

BARK: 3/4-1 inch thick, light gray, tinged with red, broken into thick plates separating on the surface into thin, irregular, appressed scales.

TWIGS: Slender, green, more or less tinged with red; at first pilose or pubescent; ultimately ashy-gray or light brown.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, oblong-obovate, narrowed and cuneate at base, divided into spreading or ascending lobes by deep or shallow sinuses rounded, straight, or oblique on the bottom, the terminal lobe acute or acuminate at apex; dark green and glabrous above, usually silvery-white below; 7-10 inches long, 1-4 inches wide.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in slender hoary aments 4-6 inches long, calyx light yellow; pistillate sessile or stalked.

FRUIT: Matures the first year; nut subglobose or ovoid or rarely to ovoid-oblong, 1/2-1 inch long, usually broader at base than long, chestnut-brown, about 2/3 enclosed in the ovoid, nearly spherical, or deep cup-shaped, thin cup.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid, obtuse, about 1/8 inch long with light chestnut-brown scales covered, near their margins, with loose pale tomentum.

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

USES: Lumber, pulp, furniture, firewood.

HABITAT: River swamps, small deep depressions on rich bottom lands usually wet throughout the year.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Nut more or less enclosed in the cup; lyre-shaped leaves; trunk usually divided 15-20 feet above ground into comparatively small, often pendulous branches.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Nowhere abundant. More or less generally distributed in the state, usually in low flatwoods, alluvial bottoms, but not in the immediate vicinity of streams.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 6. A nut |
| 2. A staminate flower | 7. Part of the base of a cup |
| 3. A pistillate flower | 8. A leaf |
| 4. A fruiting branch | 9. A winter branchlet |
| 5. A fruit | 10. An axillary winter bud with persistent stipule |



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