

## TURKEY OAK

*Quercus laevis* Walt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Scrub oak.

FORM: This tree reaches 20-40 feet in height with an irregular, open crown of crooked branches; often a shrub on very poor sites.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, deciduous; 4-8" long, 3-6" wide; spreading from pointed base into 3-5 (rarely 7) long narrow lobes each with 1-3 bristle-tipped teeth. Shiny yellow-green above, light green beneath with prominent veins and tufts of rust-colored hairs in vein angles; petioles short, stout and grooved.

BARK: Gray to blackish; becoming thick, very rough, deeply furrowed into irregular ridges; inner bark reddish.

TWIGS: Stout; red becoming dark brown and glabrous; terminal buds are clustered at the end of the twig; insect galls are common; partially developed acorns may be present.

WINTER BUDS: Larger buds are mostly 3/8-1/2" long; slender and acute; circular in cross section; rusty hairy but not woolly.

FLOWERS: Appear with the leaves; unisexual, the staminate is in slender, 4-5" long, hairy catkins; the pistillate is on short, stout, hairy stalks.

FRUIT: Acorns are 3/4-1" long; egg-shaped, about 1/3 enclosed by top-shaped cup with loose scales; inner surface of nut shell is woolly; short-stalked; maturing in their second year.

HABITAT: Occurs on dry, sandy, sterile hills and ridges; often in pure stands or in close association with Longleaf pine.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: The common name refers to the shape of the 3-lobed leaves suggesting a turkey's foot. Spreads by 'underground runners, especially after frequent fires.

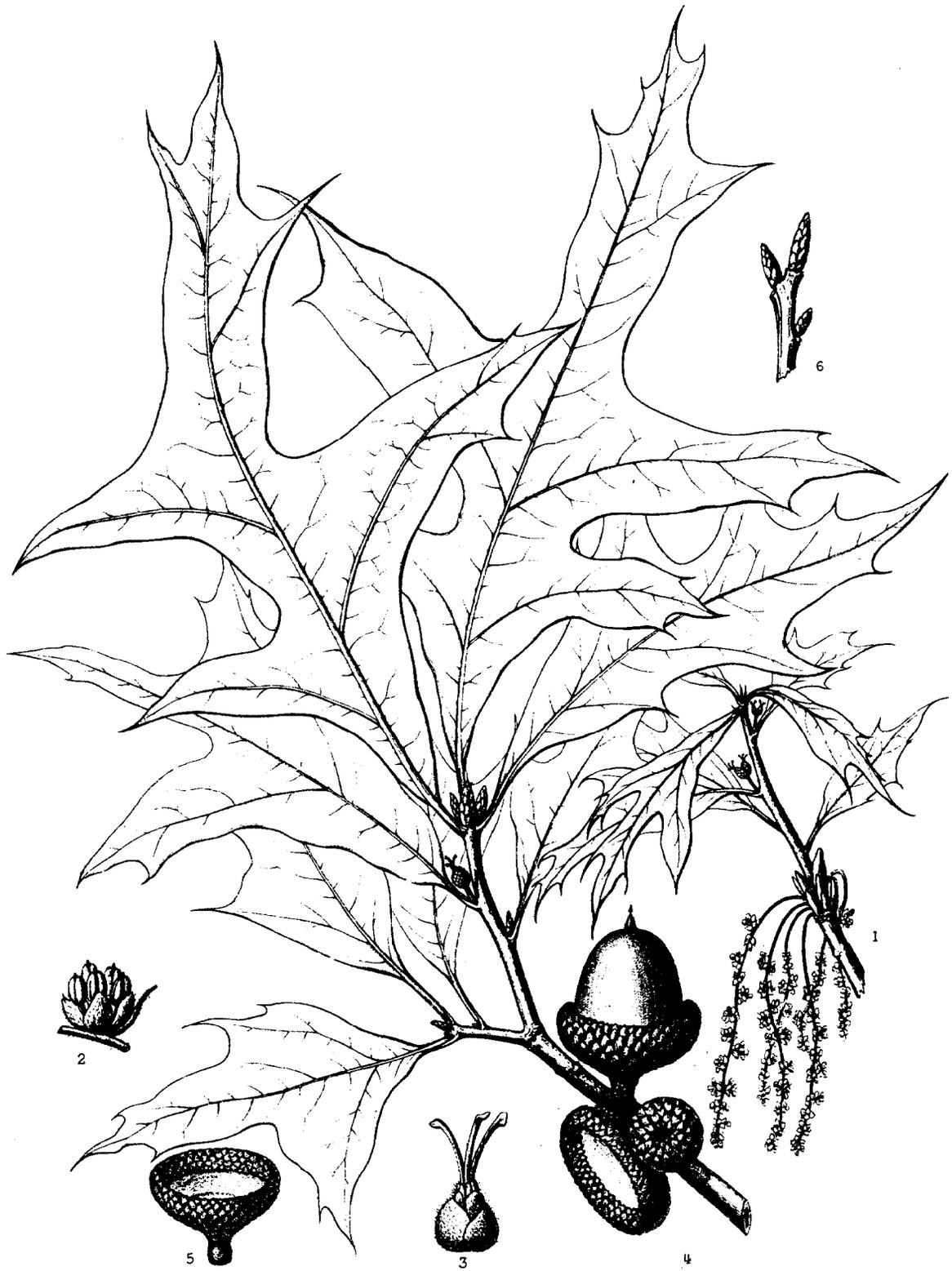
WOOD: Very heavy, dense and strong wood with high fuel value, but with grain characteristics that limit lumber production and use.

USES: Firewood, some pulpwood and mast for wildlife.

IN ALABAMA: Occurs mostly within the lower coastal plain of southern third of the state below 500 feet elevation.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch  | 4. A fruiting branch  |
| 2. A staminate flower  | 5. A cup              |
| 3. A pistillate flower | 6. A winter branchlet |



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