

# *Quercus phellos* L.

## Willow oak



### Sources:

Louisiana Trees, first edition 2015, made available by Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

The Beech Family (Fagaceae)

The willow oak grows to 130 feet at maturity and is a good shade tree choice in the south.

**Habitat:** Willow oaks like moist, alluvial soils along waterways and they are a transitional tree located between swamps and upland mesic forests.

**Bark:** This oak has bark that is dark gray; smooth; darker with age; deep furrows; rough ridges; and pink inner bark.

**Fruit:** The fruit is a saucer-shaped acorn measuring 0.38" -0.50" inches and is brown with faint stripes.

**Flower:** The flower is monoecious, unisexual, staminate, hairy, yellow catkins, 2.0 – 3.0 long on slender stalks with pistillate flowers.

**Wildlife value:** It is a food source for waterfowl, wild turkey, blue jays, red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers, white-tailed deer, fox, gray squirrels and more.