

Quercus stellata

Post oak



The Beech Family (Fagaceae)

This medium-sized tree has dense, rounded crown; alternate, shiny, dark green, leathery, very large, deciduous leaves; and brownish-gray, plate-like, scaly bark.

Habitat:

It prefers dry, upland ridges and prairie edges.

Interesting Facts:

Wood is commonly used for posts, crossties and other construction purposes. Acorns are edible and, when roasted, make a coffee-like beverage. Tannins found in the tree used as an astringent and for tanning. Host to the Northern Hairstreak and Horace's Duskywing butterflies.

Sources:

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum. *Featured Species*. For more information visit website.

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

NC State. *North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*.

Fruit:

Bowl-shaped, dark, shiny, brown acorns .5 - .75" with warty/scaly cap, covering 1/3 to 1/2 of acorn; maturing annually and ripening in the fall.

Flower:

Male: 2 - 4" yellow-green flowers on hanging catkins; female: reddish short spikes from leaf axils, appearing with the leaves.

Wildlife value:

Multiple species of birds and mammals eat acorns and attracted insects. Valuable nest source for birds and small mammals.