

BLACK OAK

Quercus velutina

Aka yellow oak, quercitron, yellowbark oak, or smoothbark oak



Description: A deciduous tree with spreading branches form an open crown that is often irregular. The species name 'velutina' is a reference to the underside of the leaves of black oak, which are covered with fine hairs. It is one of the most common trees of the eastern deciduous forest.

Conservation Status: None

Size: 50 -60 ft.

Growth Rate: Fast

Light: Sun/ part shade

Planting and Care: Moist, rich well drained soils, but often found on poor, dry sandy or heavy clay. Wind and salt tolerant.

Ornamental Value: None

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Wood is valuable for furniture and flooring, is sold as red oak. Formerly once was a source of tannin, of medicine, and of a yellow dye for clothing. Native Americans used black oak to treat a wide variety of ailments including indigestion, chills, fevers, respiratory problems, sore eyes, and more. It was also used as an antiseptic and an emetic (to induce vomiting).

Wildlife Benefits: Black oak acorns are an important food for squirrels, white-tail deer, mice, voles, turkeys, and other birds.

WARNING: POISONOUS PARTS: Acorns (seeds of nuts) and young leaves. Low toxicity if eaten.