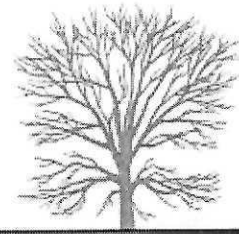


Black Oak⁴⁵

Quercus velutina



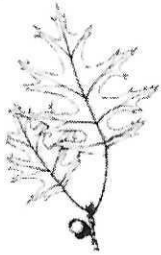
Black Oak trees are medium to large-sized with open, spreading crowns. They are distinguishable by the yellow or orange in bark. Black oak was a former source of tannin, medicine, and a yellow dye for cloth.

Mature Height and Growth

At maturity it will range from 50' to 100' tall with a diameter ranging from 1-4'. Growth is fast on good soils.

Best Planting Site

Dry to well drained. Full sun. It is often found in upland sandy and rocky ridges and slopes. On better sites, it will grow as fast as red oak.



Leaves

The leaves are 4" – 9" long and 3"-6" wide with 7 to 9 lobes. The lobes will either be shallow or deep and narrow. It is shiny green above and yellow-green below with brown hairs. The leaves will turn dull red or brown in fall.

Fruit

The acorns are about ¾" long, with ½" enclosed by deep thick top-shaped cup, narrowed at base with fringed border of loose rust-brown hairy scales. Appearing in the second year.



Flowers

Yellowish flowers appear with young leaves in May.



Uses

Timber, wildlife food and cover. It is a favored food source because the small acorns can be carried and consumed by birds. Also, among oak species, black oak is one of the most consistent producers of acorn crops.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America. 1968; Harlow, William Ph.D., et al. "Textbook of Dendrology", 1979; "Wildlife Shrub Species".
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/nursery/order/shrubs.htm> . Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. August 23, 2002.