



chinkapin oak

Quercus muhlenbergii

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The chinkapin oak, or yellow chestnut oak, is a deciduous tree that may grow to 100 feet tall with a trunk diameter of four feet. The bark is pale gray with scaly ridges. The simple leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. The leaf is lance-shaped and coarsely toothed around the edges. Each leaf is smooth and yellow-green on the upper surface, paler and hairy on the lower surface, up to eight inches long and five inches wide. Male and female flowers are separate but located on the same tree. The tiny flower does not have petals. Male (staminate) flowers are arranged in catkins, and the female (pistillate) flowers are in small groups. The fruits are acorns which are borne in groups of one or two. Each acorn is ovoid, chestnut-colored and up to three-fourths inch long. The cup covers about one-half of the nut. The cup has hairy scales.

BEHAVIORS

The chinkapin oak may be found in scattered locations throughout Illinois. It grows on low, rich slopes, wooded hillsides and dry cliffs. This tree flowers in April and May. The heavy, strong wood is used for making fence posts, for fuel and for constructing railroad ties.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.