



post oak

Quercus stellata

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

FEATURES

The post oak is a deciduous tree that may grow to a height of 60 feet and a trunk diameter of about three feet. The crown is rounded. The bark is gray or light brown, divided into flat plates. The red-brown buds are spherical, about one-eighth inch long. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each thick leaf is five-lobed, with the upper lobes squared and separated from the lower lobes by a deep division. A leaf may be about six inches long and four and one-half inches wide. The upper surface of the leaf is dark green and hairy while the lower surface is pale and hairy. The hairy leafstalk may be one inch long. Male and female flowers are separate but are located on the same tree. Flowers lack petals. The male (staminate) flowers are in yellow, drooping catkins. The female (pistillate) flowers are in a cluster. The fruit is an acorn, borne singly or in groups of two. The pale brown nut is oval or oblong, up to one inch long and less than half of it is enclosed by the cup.

BEHAVIORS

The post oak may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois and in Grundy County. It grows in upland woods and on bluffs. Flowering occurs from April through May. The wood is used for fence posts, as fuel and for construction.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/2 + Grundy County

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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