



## willow oak

*Quercus phellos*

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

## FEATURES

The willow oak is a deciduous tree that may attain a height of 75 feet and a trunk diameter of up to three feet. Its crown is narrow but rounded. The bark is red-brown with shallow furrows. Buds are ovoid, pointed, smooth and up to one-eighth inch in length. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. These lance-shaped to oval leaves have a bristle tip. Each leaf may be five inches long and one inch wide. The leaf is smooth and light green above, smooth and paler below. The leafstalk is about one-half inch long. Male and female flowers are borne separately on the same tree. The tiny flowers have no petals. The staminate (male) flowers develop in drooping catkins. The pistillate (female) flowers are in clusters. The fruit is an acorn. Acorns grow singly or in groups of two. The spherical, yellow-brown acorn is enclosed for less than one-fourth of its length by the red-brown, hairy cup.

## BEHAVIORS

The willow oak may be found in the southern tip of Illinois. It grows in swampy woods. Flowering occurs from April through May.

## HABITATS

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

## ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

## ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern tip

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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