



## swamp chestnut oak

*Quercus michauxii*

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

### FEATURES

The swamp chestnut oak is also known as the basket oak or the cow oak. This deciduous tree may attain a height of 100 feet and a trunk diameter of six feet. The crown is rounded. The bark is gray and scaly. The hairy buds are pointed, about one-fourth inch long. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each oval leaf is pointed at the tip and tapering at the base. A leaf may be 10 inches long and six inches wide. The leaf's edges are scalloped. The thick leaf has a green upper surface and a white, hairy lower surface. The hairy leafstalk may be one and one-half inches long. Male and female flowers are separate but located on the same tree. The tiny flowers have no petals. Male (staminate) flowers develop in catkins, while female (pistillate) flowers grow in clusters. The fruit is a brown acorn that may grow to one and one-half inches long. Acorns grow singly or in pairs. The thick, hairy cup encloses the acorn for about one-third of its length.

### BEHAVIORS

The swamp chestnut oak may be found in the southern one-third of Illinois. This tree grows in low woods and swamps. Flowering occurs from April through May. The wood is used for general construction, as fuel and for fence posts.

### HABITATS

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.