



ID #: 496

Owner: USFS—Ouachita National Forest

Circumference: 101 inches

Height: 79 feet

Average Crown Spread: 67 feet

Total Points: 196.8

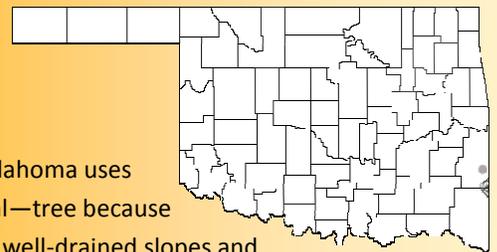
GPS Coordinates:

— Have you found my co-champion?

Its GPS coordinates are: —



## AMERICAN BEECH (*FAGUS GRANDIFLORA*)



Beech trees are too scarce in Oklahoma to be important commercially. Principal Oklahoma uses include nuts for human and wildlife consumption. A handsome shade tree. Called initial—tree because the smooth thin bark is readily carved. It is a shade-tolerant species and prefers moist, well-drained slopes and rich bottomlands. Early settlers often looked for beeches as a sign of a good potential place to clear the forest for farming.

**Large tree** 70 feet high and 2 feet in diameter, with broad rounded crown of many long spreading horizontal branches. **Twigs** slender, slightly zigzag, brown, with many short side twigs or spurs. **Buds** long, very narrow pointed, shiny red brown, hairless, with many scales.

**Leaves** alternate in 2 rows and clustered on spurs, elliptical or ovate, 2.5—5 inches long, 1-2.5 inches wide, long—pointed, base short—pointed to slightly notched, with many straight parallel slightly sunken side veins each ending in tooth along coarsely saw-toothed edges, above dull blue green, beneath light green, becoming hairless or nearly so, turning yellow and brown in autumn and often remaining in winter.

**Male flowers** many, small yellowish, with many stamens, crowded in ball 3/4—1 inch in diameter, hanging on slender hairy stalks to 2 inch. **Female flowers** usually 2, 1/4 inch long, bordered by narrow hairy reddish scales, at end of hairy stalk to 3/4 inch long.

**Fruit** a short—stalked light brown prickly bur 1/2—3/4 inch long, splitting open along 4 lines. Seeds usually 2, 3—angled, about 5/8 inch long, shiny brown edible.

**Bark** gray, smooth, thin, often with carved initials.

**Wood** reddish brown with thick whitish sapwood, diffuse porous, very fine—textured, heavy, hard, strong.