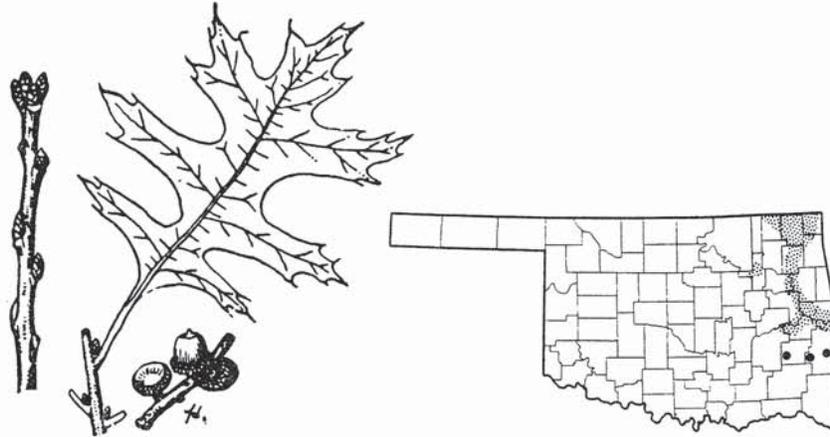


53. PIN OAK

Quercus palustris Muenchh.

Medium-sized to large tree 70 ft (21 m) high, with straight trunk 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter, compact conical crown of slender nearly *horizontal branches* often remaining along trunk when dead, and with many *short twigs like pins*. Twigs slender, shiny dark reddish brown, ending in cluster of narrow short-pointed dark brown hairless buds.



Leaves elliptical, 3-5 in (7.5-13 cm) long, 2-4 in (5-10 cm) wide, *deeply divided* nearly to midvein into 5-7 spreading lobes with few bristle-tipped teeth and with wide rounded sinuses, *shiny dark green* and hairless above, beneath light green and slightly shiny with hair tufts in vein angles, turning brown or red in autumn.

Acorns 1-2, stalkless or short-stalked, small, nearly round, about ½ in (13 mm) long and broad, ¼-⅓ enclosed by thin shallow saucer-shaped scaly brown cup which tapers to base, maturing second year.

Bark dark gray, smooth, hard, becoming fissured into short broad scaly ridges.

Wood light pinkish brown with thin brownish white sapwood, ring porous, coarse- and uneven-textured, heavy (sp. gr. .58), hard. Used for red oak lumber and piling.

Uncommon in forests on moist soil, ne. Okla. (except Ozarks). Local in n. Le Flore Co. and Latimer Co. in n. part of se. Okla. Common on poorly drained wet sites and in flood plains, ne. one-fourth of U.S. except n. border. Zone 4.

Pin oak is a popular, handsome shade tree, regular in form, hardy, moderately rapid in growth, and with handsome autumn foliage. However, it should not be planted on highly alkaline soils.