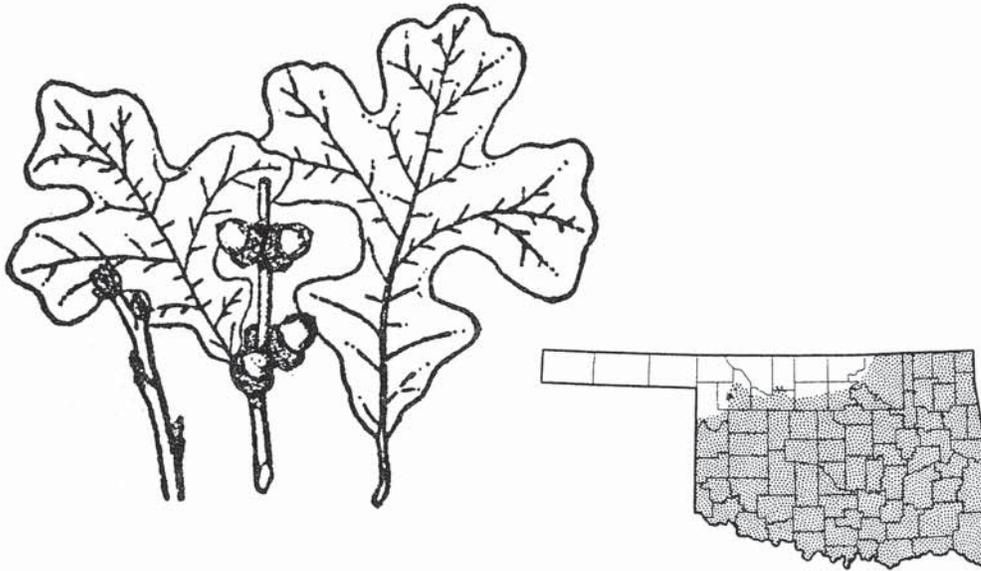


57. POST OAK

Quercus stellata Wangenh.

Small or medium-sized tree 20-60 ft (6-18 m) high and 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter, with spreading rounded dense crown, sometimes a shrub. Twigs stout, gray, hairy when young, ending in cluster of broad blunt light reddish brown buds, nearly hairless.



Leaves reverse ovate, 3¼-6 in (8-15 cm) long, 2-4½ in (5-11 cm) wide, deeply 5—7-lobed, the broad lobes rounded and notched, 2 *middle lobes largest* and with short-pointed base and rounded tip often *suggesting a cross*, slightly thickened, shiny dark green and slightly rough above, *beneath gray green* with tiny star-shaped *hairs*, turning brown in autumn.

Acorns 1-2, stalkless or short-stalked, elliptical, ½-1 in (13-25 mm) long, ⅓-½ enclosed by deep scaly cup, maturing first year.

Bark light gray, fissured into narrow or broad scaly ridges.

Wood dark brown with thick whitish sapwood, fine-textured, heavy (sp. gr. .60), hard, resistant to decay. Marketed as white oak lumber and used also for posts, railroad crossties, and construction timbers.

Common and dominant in oak-hickory forests, especially Cross Timbers with blackjack oak, and oak-pine forests, mostly on dry sandy upland soils, through Okla. except nw. one-fourth and panhandle. Widespread in e. half of U.S. except northern part. Zone 5.

In sandhills of sw. Okla., post oak intergrades and hybridizes with the shrubby species of shin oak, Havard oak (*Quercus havardii* Rydb.). Sand post oak (var. *margaretta* (Ashe) Sarg.), a variety scattered in e. and c. Okla., has leaves mostly 3-lobed and with larger soft hairs beneath.