56. SHUMARD OAK

*Quercus shumardii* Buckl.; spotted oak, red oak.

Medium-sized to large tree 80 ft (24 m) high, with straight trunk 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter and broad rounded crown. Twigs slender, gray, hairless, ending in cluster of *narrow pointed gray hairless buds.*

*Leaves* elliptical, 3-7 in (7.5-18 cm) long, 2½-5 in (6-13 cm) wide, *deeply divided* nearly to midvein into 5-9 lobes broadest toward tip and with several spreading bristle-tipped teeth, the large *rounded sinuses between lobes* sometimes nearly closed, *slightly shiny dark green* and hairless above, beneath slightly shiny or dull green with hair tufts in vein angles, *turning brown or dark red in autumn.*

*Acorns* 1-2, short-stalked, egg-shaped, ¾-1¾ in (15-29 mm) long, ¼-½ in (0.25-1 cm) enclosed by shallow or deep cup composed of tightly overlapping blunt gray scales, hairless or nearly so, maturing second year.

*Bark* gray and smoothish, becoming dark gray and slightly furrowed into ridges.

*Wood* light reddish brown, fine-textured, heavy (sp. gr. .63), hard. Marketed as red oak. Common in moist soil, including limestone outcrops, oak-hickory, oak-pine, and flood plain forests, in e. half of Okla., also local in Caddo Co. canyons and Wichita Mts. Scattered in moist soil in se. one-fourth of U.S. Zone 5.

This species of the red oak group was named for Benjamin Franklin Shumard (1820-69), state geologist of Texas. A shade tree. A Shumard oak in Canadian Co. 122 ft (37 m) high is the tallest of all Oklahoma State Champions.

Texas oak (var. *texana* (Buckl.) Ashe), a variety in c. Tex., has been reported from Arbuckle Mts., s. Okla. It has small leaves usually 5-lobed, 3-3½ in (7.5-9 cm) long, 2½-3 in (6-7.5 cm) wide, small acorns, and red brown hairy buds.