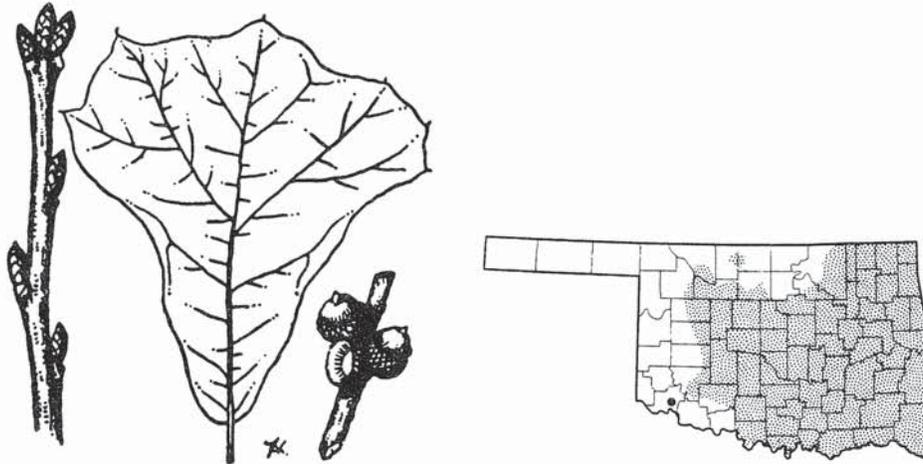


47. BLACKJACK OAK

Quercus marilandica Muenchh.; blackjack.

Small, sometimes medium-sized tree 20-60 ft (6-18 m) high and 1 ft (0.3 m) in diameter, with irregular spreading open crown of crooked stiff branches and many dead twigs. Twigs slender, finely hairy when young, light brown, ending in cluster of angled pointed rusty brown hairy buds.



Leaves slightly *triangular* or broadly reverse ovate, 2½-5 in (6-13 cm) long, 2-4 in (5-10 cm) wide, *broadest near tip* with 3 shallow broad lobes with bristle-tipped teeth, gradually narrowed to rounded base, slightly thickened, above *shiny yellow green*, beneath dull light yellow green with brownish or rusty hairs, especially along veins, turning brown or yellow in autumn.

Acorns 1-2 on short stalk, elliptical, ⅝-¾ in (1.5-2 cm) long, ending in stout point, ⅓-⅔ enclosed by deep thick top-shaped or half-round cup of long-pointed rusty brown hairy, loosely overlapping scales, maturing second year.

Bark blackish, rough, thick, deeply furrowed into broad, nearly square plates.

Wood dark brown with thick light brown sapwood, heavy (sp. gr. .60), hard. Used for railroad cross-ties, fuelwood, charcoal.

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

Blackjack oak and post oak are the most common and most widespread oaks in Okla., forming the Cross Timbers and border between forest and grassland.