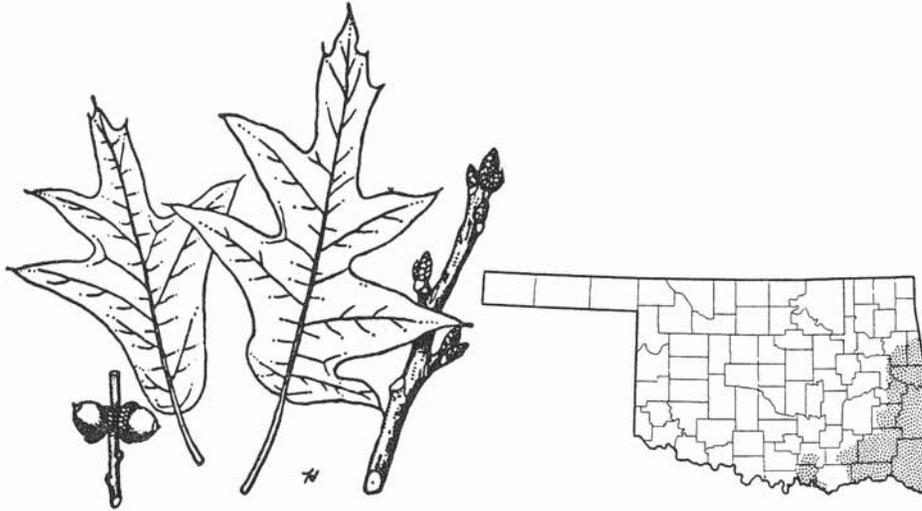


41. SOUTHERN RED OAK

Quercus falcata Michx.; Spanish oak.

Medium-sized to large tree 80 ft (24 m) high and 2 ft (0.6 m) in diameter, with rounded open crown of large spreading branches. Twigs stout, rusty hairy when young, shiny brown, with star-shaped pith, ending in cluster of narrow pointed reddish brown, nearly hairless buds.



Leaves elliptical, 4-8 in (10-20 cm) long, 2-6 in (5-15 cm) wide, *deeply divided* into long narrow end lobe and 1-3 shorter mostly curved lobes on each side with 1-3 bristle-tipped teeth, base blunt or rounded with sides unequal, or slightly triangular with *bell-shaped base* and 3 broad lobes, above *shiny green* and hairless, *beneath* covered with *gray or rusty soft hairs*, turning brown in autumn.

Acorns 1-2, stalkless or short-stalked, elliptical or rounded, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ in (13-15 mm) long, $\frac{1}{3}$ enclosed by shallow scaly cup tapering to broad stalklike base, maturing second year.

Bark dark gray, rough, becoming furrowed into broad ridges and plates.

Wood reddish brown with thick whitish sapwood, coarse-textured, heavy (sp. gr. .52), hard, tough. Marketed as red oak lumber.

Common in oak-hickory and pine-oak forests, especially in moist sandy soils and Coastal Plain, se. Okla. and ne. Okla. n. to Cherokee Co. Common in Atlantic coast, Gulf coast, and Miss. Valley regions in se. one-fourth of U.S. Zone 6.

Southern red oak is a handsome hardy shade tree in the Southeast. Cherrybark oak (var. *pagodifolia* Ell., swamp red oak) is a variety with pagoda-shaped leaves having 5-11 broad lobes spreading at right angle to midvein, whitish hairy beneath, and smoothish light gray cherrylike bark becoming dark and rough. This variety is uncommon in the Coastal Plain of s. McCurtain Co., se. Okla., and more common eastward in se. U.S.