

Cherrybark Oak

(*Quercus pagoda* Raf.)



Cherrybark oak also is known as swamp red oak, swamp spanish oak or bottomland oak. The cherrybark oak is widely distributed on the best sites in first bottoms and on well-drained terraces and alluvial sites of the Coastal Plain and lower Piedmont. It seldom is found on wet or swampy soils.

The **tree** can become much larger and better formed than the Southern red oak and often reaches heights of 100 to 130 feet and 3 to 5 feet in diameter.

The **leaves** have shallow sinuses between the five to 11 lobes, which are 5 to 7 inches long, and 3 1/2 to 4 inches wide. They are more pointed at the base and whiter beneath than those of the Southern red oak.

The dark gray or blackish, scaly mature **bark** somewhat resembles that of the wild black cherry and is responsible for the tree's common name of cherrybark oak. The **flowers** appear in April while the leaves are unfolding.

The **fruit** ripens the second year. The small rounded acorn, about 1/2 inch long, is set in a thin saucer-shaped cup that tapers to a short stem.

The **wood** is heavy, hard, strong, coarse-grained and is less subject to defects than most other red oaks. Cherrybark oak probably is the best timber oak along the rivers of the Coastal Plains. It is used for lumber, veneer and furniture.