

Quercus montana Willdenow

Chestnut oak

rock chestnut oak,
mountain chestnut oak,
rock oak, tanbark oak

GROWTH FORM: medium to large tree, 65 - 145 feet (19.8 - 44.2 m), broad open and irregular crown, chestnut like foliage.

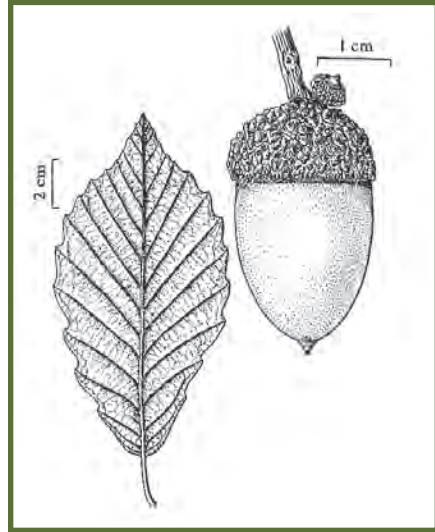
BARK: dark reddish-brown to dark gray, mature bark with deep v-shaped furrows producing broad ridges. **TWIGS and**

BUDS: stout twigs, dark green to reddish-brown; light brown to reddish-brown ovoid bud, pointed apex, bud scales may have slight pubescence. **LEAVES:** yellow petiole $\frac{3}{8}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (10 - 32

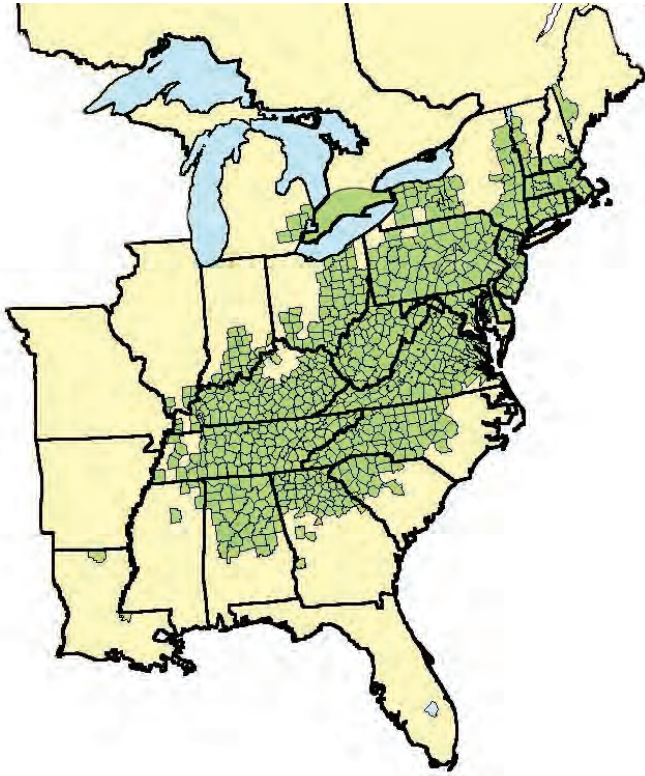
mm) long; leaf blade obovate, $4\frac{3}{4}$ - 8 inches (121 - 203 mm) long, $2\frac{3}{8}$ - 4 inches (60 - 101 mm) wide, margins have 10 - 14 rounded teeth, base subacute, apex broadly acuminate; thick firm blade, shiny dark yellowish-green above,

light green with slight pubescence along veins below.

ACORNS: annual; 1 - 2 acorns on peduncle $\frac{3}{8}$ - 1 inch (10 - 25 mm) long; cup has gray scales



with red tips, pubescent inner surface, encloses $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of nut; chestnut-brown, long oval nut, $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (19 - 38 mm) long. **HABITAT:** shallow soils, dry sandy soils, and rocky upland forests. **DISTRIBUTION:** southern Ontario, south to Louisiana, east to Georgia, and north to Maine.



COMMENTARY: The bark of chestnut oak has a high tannin concentration and was once used for tanning leather. Thus the common name ‘tanbark oak.’ Acorns provide a food source for turkey, rough grouse, songbirds, deer, and small mammals. This species is commonly referred to as *Q. prinus* in forestry literature. The largest known chestnut oak grows in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee.