

Quercus muehlenbergii Engelm

Chinkapin oak

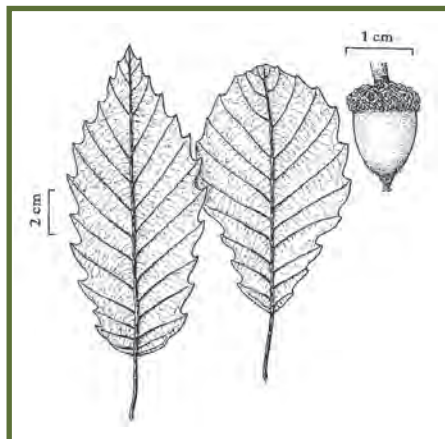
chestnut oak,
yellow chestnut oak,
yellow oak,
rock chestnut oak, rock oak

GROWTH FORM: medium to large tree 45 - 110 feet (19.8 - 33.5 m), narrow rounded crown. **BARK:** light gray, thin and scaly. **TWIGS and BUDS:** slender, brown twigs turning gray in second year; reddish-brown terminal

bud, broadly ovate with a blunt apex, sparsely pubescent. **LEAVES:** smooth petiole $\frac{3}{8}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (10 - 32 mm) long; leaf blade obovate to oblanceolate, 2 - 6 inches (51 - 152 mm) long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches (38 - 79 mm) wide, thickened and leathery, margins regularly undulate,

numerous parallel side veins, each ending in a tooth or shallow lobe, base truncate or cuneate, apex pointed; shiny dark green above, light green with minute pubescence below. **ACORNS:** annual; 1 - 2 acorns on

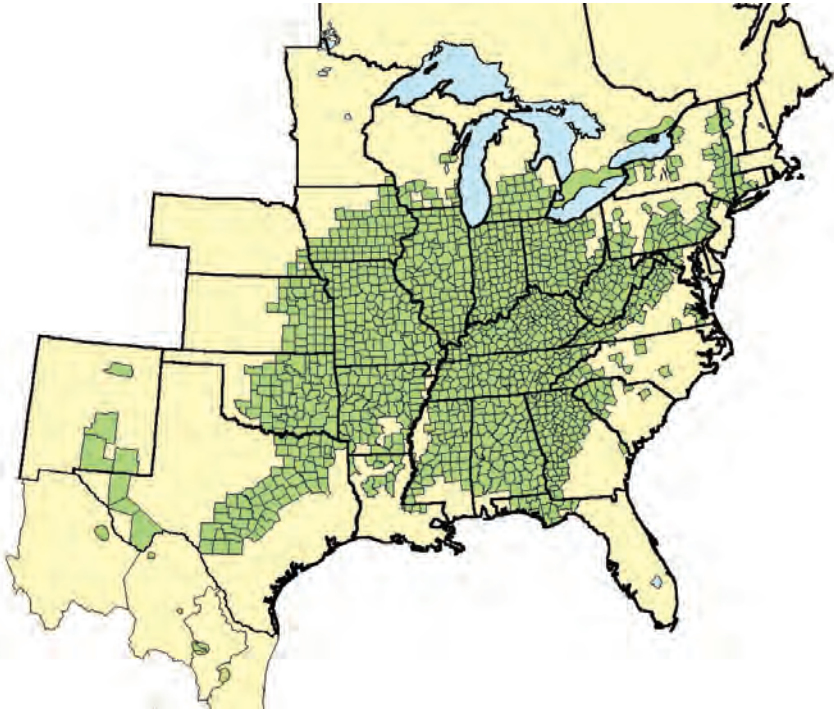
peduncle $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) in length; thin cup with gray pubescence, covering $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the nut; light brown, oblong to



ovoid nut, $\frac{5}{8}$ - 1 inch (15 - 25 mm) long.

HABITAT: limestone and calcareous soils in mixed deciduous and pine forests.

DISTRIBUTION: Vermont west to Ontario and Minnesota, southwest to New Mexico and northeastern Mexico (Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas), east to Florida, and north to Massachusetts.



COMMENTARY: Chinkapin oak was named after the botanist Henry Muehlenberg. This oak's shrubby growth is associated with poor environmental conditions at the extreme edges of its distribution. This oak species is localized throughout its range and seems dependent upon soil type and a pH above 6.0. It can readily reproduce by sprouts. Chinkapin oak can be separated from *Q. prinoides* on the same site by its single stem and sparse acorn production. The largest known chinkapin oak grows in Clark County, Kentucky.