

shingle oak

Quercus imbricaria

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division/Phylum:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Fagales
Family:	Fagaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS
common, native



leaves

ILLINOIS RANGE



FEATURES

Shingle oak is also known as Jack oak and laurel oak. This deciduous tree may grow to 70 feet tall with a trunk diameter of three feet. The trunk is straight and covered with dark brown, deeply furrowed bark. The red-brown twigs show a star-shaped pith in cross-section. Leaves are arranged alternately along the twigs. These simple, lance-shaped leaves may be six inches long and two inches wide. Each leaf is dark green, smooth and shiny on the upper surface and paler and hairy on the lower surface. The hairy leafstalk is approximately one-half inch long. Male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are separate but develop on the same tree. The flowers are tiny and lack petals. Male flowers are clustered in thin, yellow catkins. Female flowers are borne in a small cluster. The fruit is an acorn. These dark brown acorns are nearly spherical. Less than half of the acorn is enclosed by the red-brown, slightly hairy cup.

BEHAVIORS

Shingle oak may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in field edges and woods. Flowers are produced from April through May. Flowers are pollinated through wind action. Birds and mammals act to disperse the seeds. The fruits, leaves, stems and buds of this tree provide a source of food for some wildlife species. Shingle oak wood is used to produce shingles and in general construction. The red-brown wood of this tree is hard and heavy.





tree



emerging leaves and flowers



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leaves in winter

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge