

Quercus buckleyi

[Synonyms : *Quercus rubra* var. *texana*, *Quercus shumardii* var. *texana*. *Quercus texana*]

BUCKLEY OAK is a deciduous tree. Native to central and south-eastern United States, it has spine-tipped, hairy, brownish-black lined, reddish-brown acorns

It is also known as *Chêne de Shumard* (French), Nuttall oak, Red oak, Red rock oak, Rock oak, Scheck oak, Schneck oak, Shumard oak, Shumard red oak, Shumard's red oak, Southern red oak, Spanish oak, Spotted oak, Swamp red oak, *Texasi tölgy* (Hungarian), Texas oak, and Texas red oak.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind. Acorns take about 2 years to ripen.

The wood is marketed as 'red oak'.

This oak can be confused with the swamp oak, *Quercus palustris*; the nuttall oak, *Quercus nuttallii* with its more deeply lobed leaves and deeper acorn cups; the red oak, *Quercus rubra* with untufted vein junctions on its leaves and smaller acorn cups;, and the scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea* with its smaller leaves.

Buckleyi commemorates an American geologist and naturalist, Samuel Botsford Buckley (1809-1884) who seems to have attracted controversial recognition among his peers. His collecting expeditions in Tennessee and the Carolinas in the early 1840s yielded 24 new plant species for which he is said to have been credited and these discoveries led to a new genus being named after him ie. *Buckleya*. In 1860-1861 he was an Assistant under Benjamin F. Shumard who led the first Texas Geological Survey. From 1874-1877 he was state geologist for Texas. During his lifetime he collected many plants in the southern States in particular and these were to form his herbarium which contained about 6000 specimens.

The close-grained, hard, strong and heavy, reddish-brown wood has not only been used for construction, veneering, building interiors and flooring but also for making furniture. Shumard oak has been cultivated as a street tree, a lawn tree and on golf courses for its shade and ornamental qualities – and it has also been included in reforestation programmes particularly on eroded ridge-tops.

The tree has been introduced to Europe where it is cultivated in Germany and France especially.

Deer and livestock will browse on the foliage and the acorns are enjoyed by deer, bears, squirrels and other small mammals, wild turkeys, and both song and game birds, as well as waterfowl.