

*Quercus ellipsoidalis*

[Synonyms : *Quercus coccinea*, *Quercus ellipsoidalis* var. *coccinioides*, *Quercus ellipsoidalis* var. *kaposianensis*]

**HILL'S OAK** is a deciduous tree. Native to north-eastern United States and adjacent areas in Canada, particularly the mid- and western region of the Great Lakes, it has glossy dark green leaves and darker lined, deep brown acorns.

It is also known as Black oak, *Chêne des marais du nord* (French), *Chêne ellipsoïdal* (French), Hill oak, Jack oak, Northern pin oak, and *Szűróslevelű tölgy* (Hungarian).

This tree tolerates drought and strong wind. The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

*Ellipsoidalis* means 'a symmetrical shape with curved sides longer than the width and broadest in the middle', usually with reference to the leaf shape.

The common name northern pin oak' alludes to this tree's similarity to the Swamp or Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*). The acorns of the former are tapered and nearly twice the length of the latter – and the habitat of the two plants is different.

The North American Menominee Indians made a kind of coffee from the roasted acorns (no doubt processed beforehand by steeping in water to remove the very bitter taste).

The Menominee also used the inner bark as an ingredient in a potion taken for easing some period problems.

Wood from Hill's oak has been used for shingling, flooring and building interiors, as well as for making furniture. It has also been used for pulp, railway sleepers, fence posts and fuel.

Environmentalists have planted this tree on disturbed sites in areas prone to drought which have poor quality soil. In the eastern United States it is cultivated in a limited way as an ornamental plant.

While species of ducks, warblers and flycatchers nest in this oak, its acorns provide food for other wildlife such as jays, squirrels and deer.