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Quercus laevis

[Synonyms : *Quercus catesbaei*, *Quercus catesbaei* f. *rappii*, *Quercus laevis* f. *rappii*]

TURKEY SCRUB OAK is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to south-eastern United States, it has glossy yellowish-green leaves and brown acorns with a scurfy white-ringed tip. It is also known as American turkey oak, Black jack, Catesby oak, Forked-leaf black jack, Sand black jack oak, Scrub oak, Turkey-foot oak, and Turkey oak.

The tree is particularly tolerant of drought and fire. The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Laevis s derived from Latin *levis* (smooth) meaning 'smooth or polished' in reference to the leaves. The very narrowly tri-lobed leaves are sometimes compared with turkey's feet and said to account for 'turkey' appearing in some of the common names.

Both the bark and twigs have been used for tanning.

The strong, pale reddish-brown wood has been burnt as fuel. Authorities note that it is too small to be of commercial value.

Much wildlife takes advantage of the acorns, which although not as palatable as those of white oaks are nevertheless digestible and usually in abundance, including deer, black bears, squirrels and various birds such as quails, jays and turkeys.