

*Quercus pagoda*

[Synonyms : *Quercus falcata* var. *leucophylla*, *Quercus falcata* var. *pagodifolia*, *Quercus leucophylla*, *Quercus pagodaefolia*, *Quercus pagodifolia*, *Quercus rubra* var. *leucophylla*, *Quercus rubra* var. *pagodifolia*]

**CHERRYBARK OAK** is a deciduous tree. Native to south-eastern United States, it has often red tinged, glossy dark green leaves and lined, pale orange-brown acorns.

It is also known as Bottomland oak, Bottomland red oak, Cherry bark red oak, Elliott oak, Spanish oak, Swamp red oak, and Swamp Spanish oak.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

This oak can be confused with the southern red oak, *Quercus falcata*. Cherrybark oak's leaves are uniformly lobed and broadly tipped whereas those of southern red oak are irregularly lobed and have long, curved thin tips. The latter also prefers dryer upland sites.

*Pagoda* is, according to some authorities, a reference to a believed pagoda-like appearance in the leaf-shape. (This is said to be best observed from above with the leaf tip pointing towards the ground when the leaf's lobes at that angle appear to resemble a pagoda's overlapping roofs.)

Houma North American Indians used the bark as an ingredient in a potion taken to cure dysentery, indigestion and urinary problems. They also took a bark and root decoction as a tonic – and they used it as a remedy for hoarseness or a sore throat too.

Cherrybark oak has been cultivated as a shade tree.

The pale reddish-brown wood (which authorities consider to be of better quality than that of Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), has been used for pulp, veneering, flooring and building interiors, as well as for making furniture and agricultural implements. It has also been burnt as fuel.

The top-shaped, spine-tipped acorns are eaten in particular by deer, bear, raccoons, squirrels and mice, and by various birds including wild turkeys, jays, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and ducks.