

BLACKJACK OAK

Quercus marilandica



Blackjack oak is a small, slow growing, shrubby tree that is usually 20 to 30 feet tall at maturity. The branches are usually contorted and form a rounded crown. The leaves will remain on the tree, after turning brown, throughout the winter. The bark of the tree is black, rough and thick. Blackjack oak is commonly found growing on dry, nutrient-poor sites. This oak is a member of the red oak family.

Mature Height and Growth

At maturity it can reach a height of 30' with a diameter of up to 12".

Best Planting Site

This species will grow on very nutrient poor, dry soils where it grows slowly. On better soils, growth rate is more rapid.



Leaves

The leaves are from 3" to 7" long and wedge or bell shaped with 3 lobes. They are dark green top and leathery to the touch. The underside of the leaves are lighter green or brown and hairy.

Fruit

The acorn is small (.8" long) and oblong. It is greenish brown with half being covered by a thick, scaly, bowl-shaped cup.



Uses

The acorns of blackjack oak are a favored food of many species of wildlife such as white tail deer, blue jays, wild turkeys and squirrels.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America". 1968; Harlow, William M. Ph.D., et al. "Textbook of Dendrology". 1979.