



Quercus palustris

pin oak

Family *Fagaceae*

Origin Native

WIS Code FACW CoC 5

DESCRIPTION

Large tree (to 35 m tall) with pyramid-like crown, dead drooping lower branches, and gray-brown, smooth, thin bark becoming slightly furrowed and ridged in older trees. Twigs are slender, smooth with many sprouting from the branches giving a spiny look. Leaves (7 to 12 cm long) are simple, alternate with five to seven lobes. The lobes are bristle-tipped with U-shaped deep sinuses (spaces between lobes) reaching almost to the midrib. Upper leaf surfaces are bright green and smooth, and lower surfaces are pale with hairy tufts in the vein axils.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April to May; September to October (second year). Flowers appear with the leaves. Male flowers are clustered in drooping long spikes (catkins). Female flowers are inconspicuous. Acorns are small (0.8 to 1.5 cm), round, on very short stalks, with a flattened base on the bowl-shaped caps that cover one quarter of the nut.

HABITAT

Floodplain forests, swamps, depression ponds, and stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Quercus coccinea, scarlet oak, has longer lobed leaves (10 to 20 cm), and has five to 11 leaf lobes with many smaller lobes near the tips (leaf tips with few lobes in *Q. palustris*). *Q. coccinea* acorns are a bit larger (1.3 to 2.7 cm) with a more rounded base, and the cap covering one quarter to one half of the acorn.



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Q. palustris



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Q. coccinea