



BLACK OAK *Quercus velutina* Lam.



Black or yellow oak is found in southern Maine from Lincoln and southern Oxford counties southward; it is common near Fryeburg. It grows on dry ridges and gravel uplands. The branches are slender; and the head is narrow and open. It grows to a height of 50–60 feet and a diameter of 1–2 feet.

Black oak is used to a limited extent for interior finish, shipbuilding, flooring, piling, cross-ties, timbers, pallets, dowels, and firewood.





Black oak buds and twigs are covered with tan fine hairs.

The **bark** is smooth and dark gray or brown on young stems. On old trees, it is divided by deep fissures into broad, rounded ridges and is dark, almost black. It is rougher than red oak. The inner bark, which is characteristically bright orange or bright yellow, was used in tanning.

The **leaves** are alternate, 5–6 inches long, varying much in shape and general outline, usually seven-lobed with bristle points. The upper surface is glossy and dark green; the under surface is generally hairy with more obvious, rusty hairs in axils of veins.

The **flowers** appear in May when the leaves are only partly grown.

The **fruit**, which is bitter, matures the second season. The acorn is $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, almost twice as long as the cup and one-half enclosed by it.

The **twigs** are smooth; buds are densely hairy, angled and yellowish-gray.

The **wood** is hard, heavy, strong and coarse-grained. It is used for the same purposes as scarlet oak



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Black Oak Circumference: 181" Height: 73' Crown Spread: 73' Location: Fryeburg

