

QUERCUS FALCATA Michx.
Spanish Oak

FAMILY: Fagaceae

HABIT: Deciduous tree to 30 m.; flowering late April-early May; fruiting September-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Typical specimens of *Quercus falcata* are easily identified by the prolonged terminal lobe of the leaf blade. Occasionally, it can be confused with other members of the red oak group, especially *Q. coccinea* and *Q. velutina*. The acorns are distinctive and are the most reliable means of critical determination.

TOTAL RANGE: w. NJ and sw. PA to FL and TX, chiefly on the coastal plain, n. in the interior to OH, IN, and MO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties.

HABITAT: Usually in dry upland woods, less frequently in alluvial woods.

HAZARDS: Cutting of trees for firewood; logging.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good only if planted in its native habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This species can be identified in mature vegetative condition, but specimens with mature acorns are preferable.

COMMENTS: Although typical trees of *Quercus falcata* are distinctive, many Ohio specimens are difficult to determine. This species hybridizes with other members of the red oak group and these hybrids may be mistaken for the "true" *Q. falcata*. Braun (1961) lists the known hybrids involving *Q. falcata* that have been found in Ohio. This tree should be sought throughout the southern counties of the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Little, E.L., Jr. 1979. Checklist of United States trees (native and naturalized). U.S. Dept. Agric. Handb. 541. iv and 375 p.

Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the vascular flora of the Carolinas. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 261 pp.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 1/1983 James F. Burns, Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 2/1994 Greg Schneider