



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Quercus arkansana Sarg.
Arkansas Oak



Identification: Deciduous trees becoming 15 m tall. Bark dark gray, brown, or nearly black, with long narrow scaly ridges separated by deep furrows. Terminal buds red-brown, ovoid, 2-5 mm long. Petioles 0.5-2.5 cm long and pubescent. Leaf-blades broadly rhombic-cuneate or rhombic-obovate, 5-15 cm long, 3.5-10 cm wide, base acute to cordate, broadly 3-lobed near the apex with up to 10 teeth, deep-green above, slightly paler beneath, glabrous at maturity, except the tufted vein-axils beneath. Acorns sessile or nearly so, biennial; cup shallow, saucer-shaped, thin, 10-16 mm wide, 5-9 mm high, covering $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the nut; scale tips appressed, acute; nut ovoid or broadly ellipsoid, 10-15 mm long, 9-15 mm wide, puberulent.

Key ID characters:

- Tree sometimes with crooked trunk (15 m tall).
- Leaf blades rhombic-cuneate or rhombic-obovate, broadly 3-lobed at tip.
- Acorn cup shallow 5-9 mm by 10-16 mm.
- Acorn nut 10-15 mm by 9-15 mm.



Habitat: Xeric sandhills.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Fagaceae. There are over 50 accepted taxa within the genus *Quercus* known to occur in LA. Many of these taxa are interspecific hybrids, as a large number of species are thought to hybridize frequently.

Status:

Wetland: No Data

Global: G3 - Vulnerable

State: S2 - Imperiled



Xeric Sandhills

Range: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas.

Soils: Sandy soils.

Similar Species: Of the many species of *Quercus*, 2 are most similar to *Q. arkansana* because of leaf shape, the most readily identifiable character at most times of the year. *Q. nigra* (Water Oak) has dark gray bark and glabrous and shallowly 3-lobed leaves 5-10 cm long. *Q. marilandica* (Black Jack Oak) has nearly black bark that is coarse in hard blocks and shallowly 3- to 5-lobed leaves 8-17 cm long.

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and limited natural range. Believed to once have been a wider ranging species.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

Bossier, Caddo*, Claiborne, Natchitoches, Sabine, St Tammany, Tangipahoa, Union, Webster, Winn

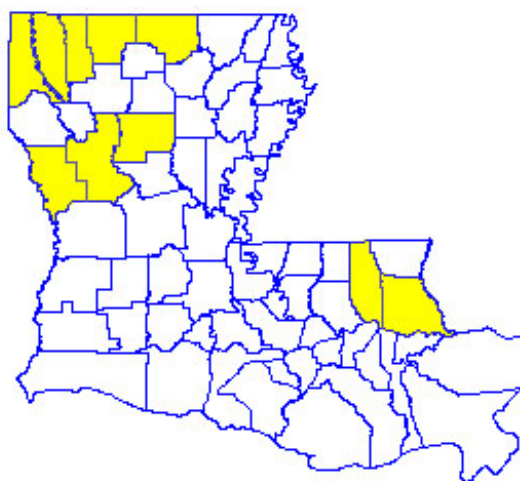
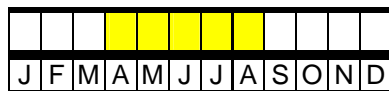
* Indicates unverified presence in parish.

Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1959, 1975, 1984(5), 1985(6), 1988(5), 1997

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

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