

pin oak *Quercus palustris*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fagales

Family: Fagaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The pin oak tree may grow to a height of 75 feet. Its lower branches droop. The bark is light or dark brown with little furrowing. The leaves are simple, up to seven inches long and divided more than one-half way to the middle into five to seven lobes, each tipped with a bristle. Leaves are arranged alternately along the branch. Male flowers are located on slender, drooping spikes. Female flowers are in clusters. The flowers are small, with male and female flowers separate but on the same tree. The pale-brown acorns grow in clusters of one to four and are up to one-half inch wide. The acorn cap encloses less than one-fourth of the acorn.

BEHAVIORS

The pin oak grows in floodplain woods, along streams, at the edges of swamps and near ponds. This tree flowers from April through May. Its acorns are a good source of food for many species of wildlife.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2018. Biodiversity of Illinois.