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About DACF

Animals & Plants

Forest

Geology

Recreation

Farming

Planning

Licensing & Regulations

Bureaus & Programs

DACF Home → Bureaus & Programs → Maine Natural Areas Program → Communities, Plants, and Animals → Rare Plants → Quercus montana

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

Maine Natural Areas Program

Quercus montana Willd.

Chestnut Oak

- State Rank: S1
- Global Rank: G5
- State Status: Threatened

Habitat: Dry acidic slopes in southern part of state. [Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland)]

Range: Appalachian region from Maine to northern Georgia, west to southern Illinois and northern Mississippi.

Aids to Identification: This upland tree is a member of the white oak group (oaks whose acorns mature in one summer and whose leaves do not have bristle tips, as is common in the red oak group). The bark is dark and deeply furrowed, and the leaves have 7-16 pairs of rounded teeth. Other identifying characters including sharp end buds, sparsely hairy undersides of the leaves, and an involucre (acorn cup) concealing 1/3 to 1/2 of the nut.



Ecological characteristics: This tree typically grows in mixed hardwood/conifer forest communities, often on rocky slopes, and may form a full or only partial canopy.

Phenology: Flowers May - June. Acorns ripen October - November.

Family: Fagaceae


Synonyms: *Quercus prinus* L. a

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 3 town(s) in the following county(ies): York.

Reason(s) for rarity: At northern limit of range; not rare southward.

Conservation considerations: Parts of the chestnut oak habitat in Maine have been converted to residential use; a large part of the population occurs on land that is being conserved for natural values.

Credits





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