

Maine.gov

Agencies | Online Services | Help | Search Maine.gov

Select Language ▼

DEPARTMENT OF

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Contact Us | Get Email/SMS Updates | News | Online Services | Sitemap

About DACFAnimals & PlantsForestGeologyRecreationFarmingPlanningLicensing & RegulationsBureaus & Programs

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

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

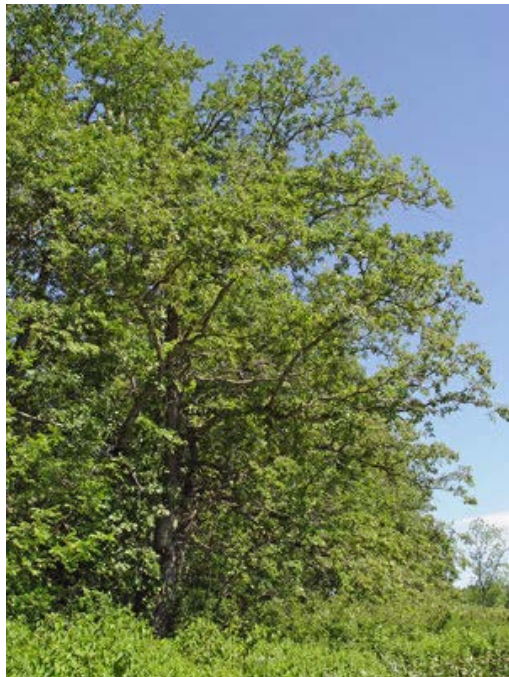
### Quercus bicolor Willd.

#### Swamp White Oak

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

**Habitat:** Bottomlands, stream margins, and swamps. [Forested wetland]

**Range:** Southern Maine and southern Quebec to southern Minnesota and Nebraska, south to southern New England, Long Island, Delaware, Maryland, northern West Virginia, upland to Georgia and Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma.



**Aids to Identification:** *Quercus bicolor* is a member of the white oak subgenus, a diverse group of species that have leaves with rounded lobes (as opposed to bristle-tipped lobes in the red oak group) and acorns that mature in one year. Swamp white oak can be distinguished from other white oak species in Maine by the following combination of characters: ovate leaves, widest above the middle, with 6-10 pairs of low but fairly even lobes (like rounded teeth); hairless buds; and acorns on stalks that are more than 3 cm long. It can be difficult to distinguish from bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), which occurs in similar habitats, unless one has buds and/or acorns. *Q. macrocarpa* usually has a deep sinus near the middle of the leaf, but leaf shape and lobing are very variable, even among leaves on the same tree. The larger branches of *Q. macrocarpa* will have corky ridges along them and are absent in *Q. bicolor*. Common white oak (*Q. alba*) is an upland species with leaves that have longer lobes than those of *Q. bicolor*. Chestnut oak (*Q. montana*) is also an upland species, found in Maine only in dryish rocky woods on and around Mt. Agamenticus and has leaves which are much narrow in outline though similarly lobed. Hybridization between *Q. bicolor*, *Q. alba*, and *Q. macrocarpa* has been reported. Hybrids would be very difficult to identify. When in doubt, press a small branch with a few leaves and either buds or acorns and send to the University of Maine herbarium.

**Ecological characteristics:** Swamp white oak is a tree of hardwood floodplain forests, basin swamps, or vernal pools. It grows with ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), silver maple or red maple (*Acer saccharinum* and *A. rubrum*, respectively), and occasionally with *Q. macrocarpa*.

**Phenology:** Acorns mature in the first year, ripe in September - October.






**Family:** Fagaceae

**Synonyms:** None noted.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 11 town(s) in the following county(ies): Kennebec, Knox, Somerset, Waldo, York.

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

**Conservation considerations:** Populations are small and could be eliminated by logging.

Credits	Information	Connect with Us	Support DACF Programs	Contact
  Copyright © 2013 All rights reserved.	<a href="#">Maine.gov</a> <a href="#">Site Policies</a> <a href="#">Accessibility</a> <a href="#">Comments/Questions</a> <a href="#">Jobs @ DACF</a> <a href="#">Grants &amp; Loans</a> <a href="#">Educational Resources</a>	 <a href="#">Facebook</a>  <a href="#">Twitter</a>  <a href="#">YouTube</a>  <a href="#">Email/SMS Updates</a>  <a href="#">Event &amp; Meeting Calendar</a> <a href="#">See more social media...</a>	<a href="#">Maine State Park Passes</a> <a href="#">Volunteer</a> <a href="#">Specialty License Plates</a> <a href="#">Outdoor Heritage Fund</a> <a href="#">Lottery Ticket</a> <a href="#">Donations</a>  <a href="#">See more choices...</a>	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry 22 State House Station 18 Elkins Lane Augusta, ME 04333 More <a href="#">Locations</a>  Phone: (207) 287-3200 Fax: (207) 287-2400 TTY: Maine Relay 711 <a href="mailto:DACF@Maine.gov">DACF@Maine.gov</a>