

Lacey Oak

Quercus laceyi

Secondary Names:

Blue Oak, Canyon Oak

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A medium-sized tree to 40 or more feet tall and a stout trunk to 2 feet in diameter, with a dense crown of distinctly bluish foliage that stands out from the junipers and live oaks with which it is associated.

Range/Site Description:

Limestone soils of the Edwards Plateau, especially in canyons or on protected slopes. Also in isolated areas of Terrell and Brewster counties.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate on the twigs, 2" to 5" long and up to 2" wide, leathery, variably lobed with the lobes irregular and often shallow; leaves blue-gray on top and paler below.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne in spring on the same tree, the male flowers on catkins about 2.5" long, the female flowers inconspicuous, about 0.5" long.

Fruit:

An acorn, maturing in one year, in clusters of 1 to 3, about 0.75" long, ovoid, enclosed one-quarter to one-half its length by the saucer-shaped cup.

Bark:

Gray, thick, breaking into narrow plates and fissures on older trunks.

Wood:

Used locally for fuelwood and posts; increasingly available in the nursery trade for landscape plantings.

Similar Species:

White shin oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*) is a small, twisted tree of limestone escarpments in Central Texas with scaly bark.