pin oak

Quercus palustris

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

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 half way to the middle into five to seven lobes, each tipped with a bristle. They 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 one-third or less of the acorn.

Natural History

The pin oak grows in bottomland forests. It flowers from April through May. Its acorns are a good source of food for many species of wildlife. It is planted widely as a landscape tree. It is common in the southeast part of the state, uncommon in the east, and rare in the south-central and southwest.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.