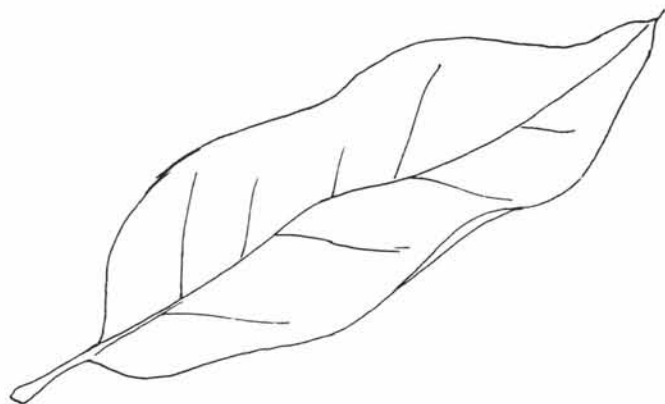


Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred Opperman

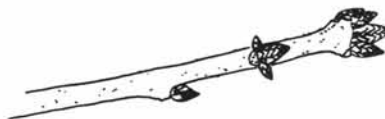
Last month we discussed the English Oak and this month I'll stay on the oaks and bring out the fine points of a seldom used oak, but one that does quite well in our area. Unfortunately very few nurseries grow "Quercus imbricaria" (kwer'kus im-bri-ka'ri-a), commonly known as the Shingle Oak or Laurel Oak.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, 2½ to 6" long, 1 to 3" wide, oblong or lanceolate, acute at apex with bristle-like tip. Dark green and glabrous above, pale green or brownish pubescent beneath.



Buds: Imbricate, ovoid, sharp pointed, 1/8" long, brownish, often slightly hairy.

Stem: Slender, green-brown, lustrous, glabrous, angled.



Size: 50 to 60' in height, developing a comparable or slightly greater spread, can grow to 80 to 100' in height.

Habit: Pyramidal to upright-oval in youth, assuming a broad-rounded outline in old age, often with drooping lower lateral branches.

Bark: Gray-brown, close, eventually with broad low ridges separated by shallow furrows.

Culture: Transplants with less difficulty than many oaks; prefers moist rich, deep, well-drained, acid soil although is tolerant of drier soils; needs full sun. Does quite well in the midwest and used for lawn, street, park and golf courses. Accepts pruning very well and can be used for hedges; the leaves persist into winter.

Tree Trivia: The American Beech tree has an oil throughout its system that is resistant to electricity. This makes the beech less likely to sustain lightning damage than any other tree.

Next month be sure to read a comprehensive report, "Trees of Chicago Area Golf Courses" by Thomas L. Green and Kris R. Bachtell.

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