

Shingle Oak
Quercus imbricaria



Description: Medium tree (to 70 feet tall, 2-3 feet diam.) with a pyramid-shaped to rounded crown with many branches. Only oak native to Indiana with leaves having no lobes or teeth along the edges. Pith star-shaped. Terminal buds clustered at twig tips.

Leaves: Alternate on twig, simple, formed on short (to ½ inch), stout, hairy leafstalks. Blades to 6 inches long, 2 inches wide, oblong; edges smooth, except seedlings sometimes have toothed leaves. Dark green and glossy above, paler and velvety below. Turn rusty brown in autumn.

Bark: Dark Brown to black with shallow fissures between hard flat plates when mature; smooth gray when young

Fruits: Fruits nearly round (to ½ inch) acorns, dark brown; cups thin, shallow bowl-shaped, with tight red-brown, hairy scales, enclose about 1/3 of the nut. Acorns mature in the second growth season. Kernel very bitter

Habitat/Range: Variable. Occurs mostly on sandy ridges or as a pioneer species in northern Indiana. Scattered on ridges, or on moist soils along larger streams in southwestern counties. Range, throughout much of Indiana on appropriate sites