Shumard's Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

Plant Species of Concern
State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G5 (secure)

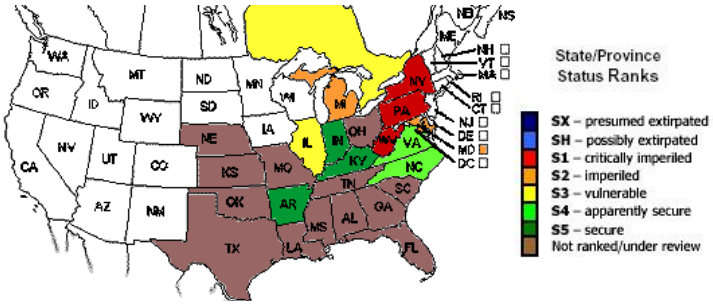
Identification

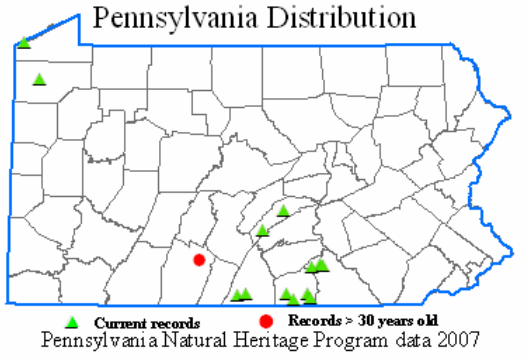
Shumard's oak is a large, deciduous tree that reaches up to 100 feet (30 meters) in height. It has gray, furrowed bark and grayish-brown, dull, bud scales on the mature branchlets. The leaves are alternate and deeply lobed. Each leaf has 7 to 9 sharply toothed lobes that tend to widen slightly toward the tip. The 4 to 7 inch (10-18 cm) leaves are dark green above, and paler green below with hairs clustered in the leaf axils.

The flowers are produced when leaves emerge in spring. Male and female flowers are produced separately, with female flowers held singly or in pairs and male flowers held in clusters of long, drooping catkins. Acorns are about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long and have scaly, saucer-shaped caps that cover less than ⅓ of the acorn.

Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe (2007)





Habitat

Shumard's oak has a distribution from Ontario and New York south into Texas and Florida. In Pennsylvania, it has been found in the south-central and northwestern counties. The species grows in moist to wet woods along streams, bottomlands, and lower slopes, often on calcareous substrate.

Status

The PA Biological Survey considers Shumard's oak to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been confirmed. It has been assigned a rarity status of Endangered.

Conservation

Maintenance of known populations and preservation of the communities where Shumard's oak grows will be crucial to its survival. Creating buffers around fragmented habitat and removal of invasive species will help to maintain populations and encourage new population growth. The management of the known sites requires long term monitoring of populations. Potential sites for restoration should be evaluated.

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

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