

# Swamp Chestnut Oak

## *Quercus michauxii*

### The Beech Family (Fagaceae)

**Basic Description:** Tall tree with rounded crown; deciduous, alternate, large leaves; light gray, scaly bark; and large acorns. Also known as Cow Oak or Basket Oak.

**Interesting Facts:** The low tannin content acorns eaten by deer, ground birds, humans and cattle. High tannin content bark used to tan leather and lumber used to make baskets and barrels. Host to the Horace's Duskywing, Northern Hairstreak, and White M Hairstreak butterflies.

**Flower:** Male: 2 to 4" long yellow-green catkins; Female: very small greenish-red in leaf axils: both appearing in mid-spring with the leaves.

**Fruit:** Brown acorn, 1 – 1.5 " in length, with a short stalked, scaly, bowl-shaped cap that covers one-third of nut.

**Wildlife Value:** Numerous species of birds and mammals eat the acorns and tree serves as a habitat for many small mammals, birds and insects.

**Habitat:** Coastal bottomland forests; stream banks; swamps.

#### LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



#### POLLINATOR

WIND



#### WILDLIFE VALUE

HIGH



Fruit



Height range 60-100'



5-10"