

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **SAWTOOTH OAK**

Native

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Quercus acutissima*

FAMILY: *Fagaceae*

ORIGIN: East Asia

US INTRODUCTION: Introduced in 1962 for rapid and heavy acorn production for wildlife forage

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Intentional planting for wildlife forage
- Animals (birds, mammals)

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Tree with furrowed bark and a pyramidal crown that becomes rounded with age, spreads by seed (acorns)
- Flowers inconspicuous , typical of oaks
- Acorns 0.5-1.5 inches long. Cap is key to identification, covers half of nut, with reflexed scales giving bristly appearance
- Leaves simple, alternate, not lobed, broadest near base, tapering to the tip, margins sharply serrate, dead leaves hang on tree in winter
- Threatens savannas, prairies, forests, and glades

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Shingle oak (*Q. imbricaria*), native, leave margins entire, acorn caps smooth, leaves with single bristle at leaf tip. American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), native, fruits mostly round (flattened on one side) each in a bur with sharp spines. Chinkapin oak (*Q. muhlenburgii*) do not have bristles at the tips of teeth on leaves, although teeth may be strongly pointed.



Tree



Bark



Leaf



Acorn

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.
http://ohiodnr.com/forestry/trees/oak_sawth/tabid/5396/Default.aspx

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.
<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=10086>