

# CHESTNUT OAK

*Quercus Montana*

Chestnut Oak is a medium sized tree that grows to 50-60 feet and about 2 feet in diameter. This species is usually found growing on dry and rocky ridges and is commonly called rock oak for this growing habit. Chestnut Oak is a very common tree found in Schuylkill County. The simple 6" leaves have 7-19 pairs of unusually rounded teeth. Its acorns are about 1 to 1-1/2 inches long and are rich dark shiny brown. The acorn cap covers 1/3 to 1/2 of the acorn. The fruit ripens in one growing season with kernels being moderately sweet. Acorns are an important food source for wildlife including deer, bear, turkey and many birds and animals. The bark is dark brown to very dark gray with deep blocky fissures. The bark is rich in tannin, and in the past, it was used in tanning of fine leather. The wood is used for furniture, flooring, millwork and railroad ties. Chestnut oak is in the white oak group of oaks and the lumber is similar to white oak.

There are two mature Chestnut Oaks at the cemetery. One is on the south side of Trinity Avenue, close to the London planetrees along Market Street and up the hillside from the second Oak. The second Oak is between Trinity Ave. and Mt. Laurel Ave. slightly down the hill from the Atkin's mausoleum and by an American Sycamore and a Japanese Maple.

