GENERAL DISTRIBUTION :

Black oak is widely distributed throughout the eastern and central

United States and extreme southwestern Ontario, Canada. In the United

States, black oak occurs from southwestern Maine west to southern

Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota; south through Iowa to eastern

Nebraska, eastern Kansas, central Oklahoma, and eastern Texas; and east

to northwestern Florida and Georgia [56].

WOOD PRODUCTS VALUE :

The wood of black oak, which is light brown with a nearly white sapwood,

is sold as "red oak" and used for furniture, flooring, and interior

finishing [25,56]. It is also used for barrels and railroad ties [61].

IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE :

Black oak acorns provide food for numerous wildlife species including

squirrels, mice, voles, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey. In

Illinois, fox squirrels have been seen feeding on black oak catkins [56].

Black oak has a high cavity value for wildlife [15]. Trunk cavities in

live black oaks were important nest sites for the northern flicker on

Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. Mean nest height was approximately 3.3

feet (1 m) above the ground [43].

GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS :

Black oak is a medium- to large-sized, native, deciduous tree with an

irregularly rounded crown [56]. In a forest, the trunk is usually

branch-free for half the height of the tree [28]. Individuals may live

150 to 200 years. On good sites, black oak may reach 150 feet (46 m) in

height and 48 inches (122 cm) in d.b.h., but most trees are 60 to 80

feet (18-24 m) tall and 24 to 36 inches (61-91 cm) in d.b.h. [56].

Black oak has a deep taproot and deep and widespreading lateral roots

[28].