Kasey Hartz Natural Area Reference Sheet
Muskegon Community College

## *Quercus alba* White Oak, Stave Oak

Fagaceae (Beech Family)

Blooming season: May

Plant



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<u>Habitat</u>: Grows well in all but very wet soils, in all open exposures. Although found on many soil types, white oak does best on coarse, deep, moist, well-drained, with medium fertility, and slightly acid soils.

Common local companions: Maple trees, red and black oak trees, white pine

Usages:

- Human: Ship-building, cooperage, furniture, interior finish, agricultural implements, railroad ties, fuel, etc.
- Animal: The acorns are eaten by deer, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, black bears, and some birds. Birds nest in the branches, and squirrels will hollow out rotten areas to make places to live.

Why is it called *that*?

Quercus is the oak family of trees, and alba means "white" in latin, and white oak bark is whitish or light gray.

Prepared by: Hope Buell October 2010

## Works Cited

\*Otis, C. H. (1973). Michigan Trees (pp. 133-323). Ann Arbor, MI:

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\*United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. (2010,

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\* Used as a main source of information.