

# FAGALES

(Fagalsids)

## BEECHES



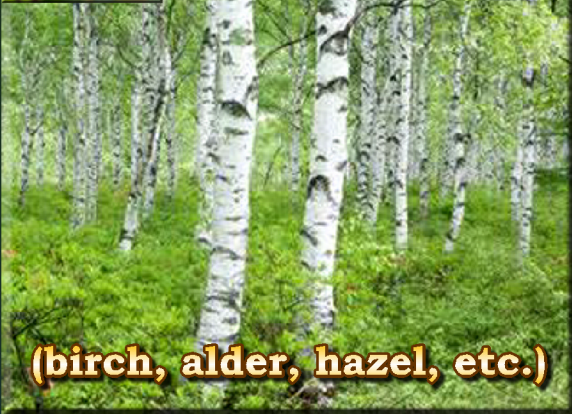
(beech, chestnut, oak)

## WALNUTS



(walnut, pecan, hickory, etc.)

## BIRCHES



(birch, alder, hazel, etc.)

## BAYBERRIES



(bayberry, sweetfern, sweet gale)

(7 Families Worldwide)



# FAGACEAE

## (Beeches)

### Shrub Live Oak

(*Quercus turbinella*)



typical habitat

Kingman, AZ



male

catkins

Christmas Tree Pass; NV



May

Clack Canyon; Kingman, Arizona



holly-like leaves

Peach Springs, AZ



female

spikes

Peach Springs, AZ

- Flowers:** unisexual; (m) catkins, 1.2"; (f) solitary or on spikes; greenish (m) to reddish (f); minute
- Stems:** shrubby; numerous; densely branched; scaly bark, woolly twigs; gray to red-brown; 24"+
- Leaves:** elliptical to ovate; planar to undulate; alternate; leathery, woolly, spiny; grayish green; 1.25"
- Blooms:** March to June
- Range:** southwestern US, Baja and northern Mexico
- Habitat:** sandy to gravelly; desert scrub to woodlands; Upper Sonoran to Transition Life Zones

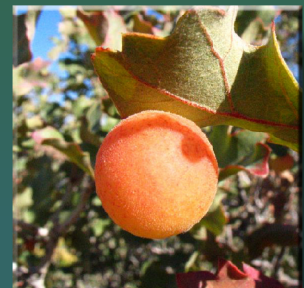
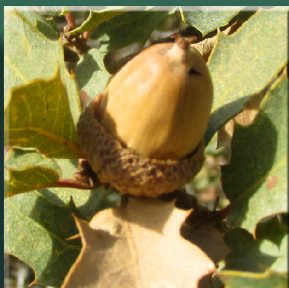
#### Notes:

common; monoecious, evergreen perennial; grows to 18' in the sw US from TX west to CA, south into Baja, Sonora, and Chihuahua, MEX at elevations of 2,000-7,500'; hemispheric 1" acorn fruit in cup-shaped cupule; aka **Gray Oak**, **Turbinella Oak**, **Sonoran Scrub Oak**, etc.: 4 subspecies; wind pollinated, though often reproduces vegetatively from rhizome; young leaves browsed by wildlife (deer, bighorn sheep, etc.); acorns eaten by javelina, squirrels, birds, etc., and traditionally by native peoples; host and cover plant for numerous birds, small mammals, insects, etc.

Mojave presence: native

#### Comments:

Those who grew up among big, majestic members of this genus hardly recognize this plant as an oak, but its acorns (left) give it away! It also hosts the larva of some parasitic wasp species that form small orange-like galls called oak apples (right).





# FAGACEAE

(Beeches)

## Gambel's Oak

(*Quercus gambelii*)



montane home

Potosi Mtn; Clark Co.; NV



July

Potosi Mountain; Spring Mountain Range; Nevada



lobed leaves

Potosi Mtn; Clark Co.; NV



fruit

acorn

South Rim; GCNP



male

catkins

South Rim; GCNP

- Flowers:** unisexual; (m) catkins, 4-12 stamens, (f) solitary or clusters of 2-3; green to brown; minute
- Stems:** erect, shrubby to arborescent; single; branched; fissured bark, woolly twigs; gray to brown; 72"+
- Leaves:** elliptical to oblong; deeply 4-6 lobed; alternate; glabrate to villous; glossy dorsal side; green; 6"
- Blooms:** April to June
- Range:** southwestern US; northern Mexico
- Habitat:** moist or dry; pinyon-juniper to ponderosa woodlands; Upper Sonoran to Canadian Life Zones

### Notes:

uncommon; monoecious, deciduous perennial; grows to 50' (usually less) in w/sw US (NM/AZ/UT/CO and isolated adjoining areas), south into northern MEX at elevations of 3,000-10,000'; green/brown, .75" acorn fruit in cup-shaped cupule, singular or in clusters, producing light brown, ovoid to ellipsoid nut; 5 subspecies; aka Gambel Oak, Scrub Oak, Rocky Mountain White Oak, etc.; wind pollinated, reproduces from seed or root; provides food and cover for wildlife (birds, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, etc) and various insects; traditionally utilized by native peoples for food, medicines (pain relief, cathartic, emetic, etc), tool/furniture making, fencing, firewood, etc.

Mojave presence: native

### Comments:

The Gambel hybridizes with many other oak species, making positive identification of subspecies and hybrids difficult. Without compelling reason, one should feel no reticence or discomfiture in assigning any individual as being the nominal species.