



California Black Oak . . .

a general bibliography on an increasingly valuable species

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Recently, on the Plumas National Forest in Butte County, California, 200,000 board feet of California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii* Newb.) stumpage were sold at a record price of \$4 per thousand board feet. A few years ago these same trees would have been ignored, poisoned, or cut for firewood; now they yield a return to the landowner.

Is the demand for black oak likely to increase? Several factors suggest that it will. The amount of hardwood stock used by woodworking industries in California is no small item--about 60 million board feet annually. More than 10 million feet of this volume is oak--practically all of this amount shipped from the Eastern United States.¹ The diminishing supply of quality eastern stock and the high cost of transporting it to the West Coast are two prime reasons for an increased demand.

Numerous trials by the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory, the University of California Forest Products Laboratory, and private industry have shown that California black oak compares favorably with eastern

ABSTRACT: Lists 97 references. Includes most of the available citations on the species, with major emphasis on injurious agents, wood strength, and seasoning characteristics.

RETRIEVAL TERMS: species characteristics, species lists, bibliographic references. Line Project: 1201.

oaks. The wood has the hardness and finishing characteristics necessary for flooring. Its grain and figure characteristics make it attractive for paneling and furniture, and its strength properties make it suitable for pallets, industrial flooring, and other uses.

Seasoning used to be a problem, but reliable techniques are now readily available.

California black oak ranges from the basin of the McKenzie River in western Oregon southward through the Coast Ranges and along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada to the Cuyamaca Mountains in southern California. In a broad sense it is usually found where ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* Laws.) grows; there it obtains its best growth and form. The supply of merchantable black oak in California is about 1 billion board feet, according to a recent Forest Survey estimate. A 1965 survey listed about 2 million board feet of merchantable black oak in southwestern Oregon.

This note brings together most of the available references on California black oak.

¹Malcolm, F. B. *California black oak--a utilization study*. U.S. Forest Serv. Forest Prod. Lab. Rep. 2237. 10 pp. 1962.

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