

# Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

## Bottomland oak - hardwood palustrine forest

These are palustrine forests characterized by the dominance or near-dominance of *Quercus palustris* (pin oak) and/or *Q. bicolor* (swamp white oak), often with *Acer rubrum* (red maple), *Ulmus americana* (American elm), *Nyssa sylvatica* (black-gum), and *Fraxinus nigra* (black ash). Shrubs include *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), *Vaccinium corymbosum* (highbush blueberry), *Dirca palustris* (leatherwood), *Viburnum recognitum* (northern arrow-wood), and *V. dentatum* (southern arrow-wood). Herbs include *Impatiens* spp. (jewelweed), *Thelypteris palustris* (marsh fern), *Polygonum sagittatum* (arrow-leaved tearthumb), *P. arifolium* (halberd-leaved tearthumb), and *Agrimonia parviflora* (southern agrimony).

**Related types:** This community types is distinguished from the various red maple palustrine forest types by the dominance or near-dominance of *Quercus palustris* (pin oak), and/or *Q. bicolor* (swamp white oak).

**Range:** Piedmont, Pittsburgh Plateau, Ridge and Valley.

**Selected references:** Smith 1991, Sneddon, Anderson, and Metzler 1996.

[**Crosswalk:** Smith's "Circumneutral Broadleaf Swamp" (in part), TNC's *Quercus (palustris, bicolor)* Seasonally Flooded Forest Alliance, closest SAF's type is Pin oak -sweet gum (65).]