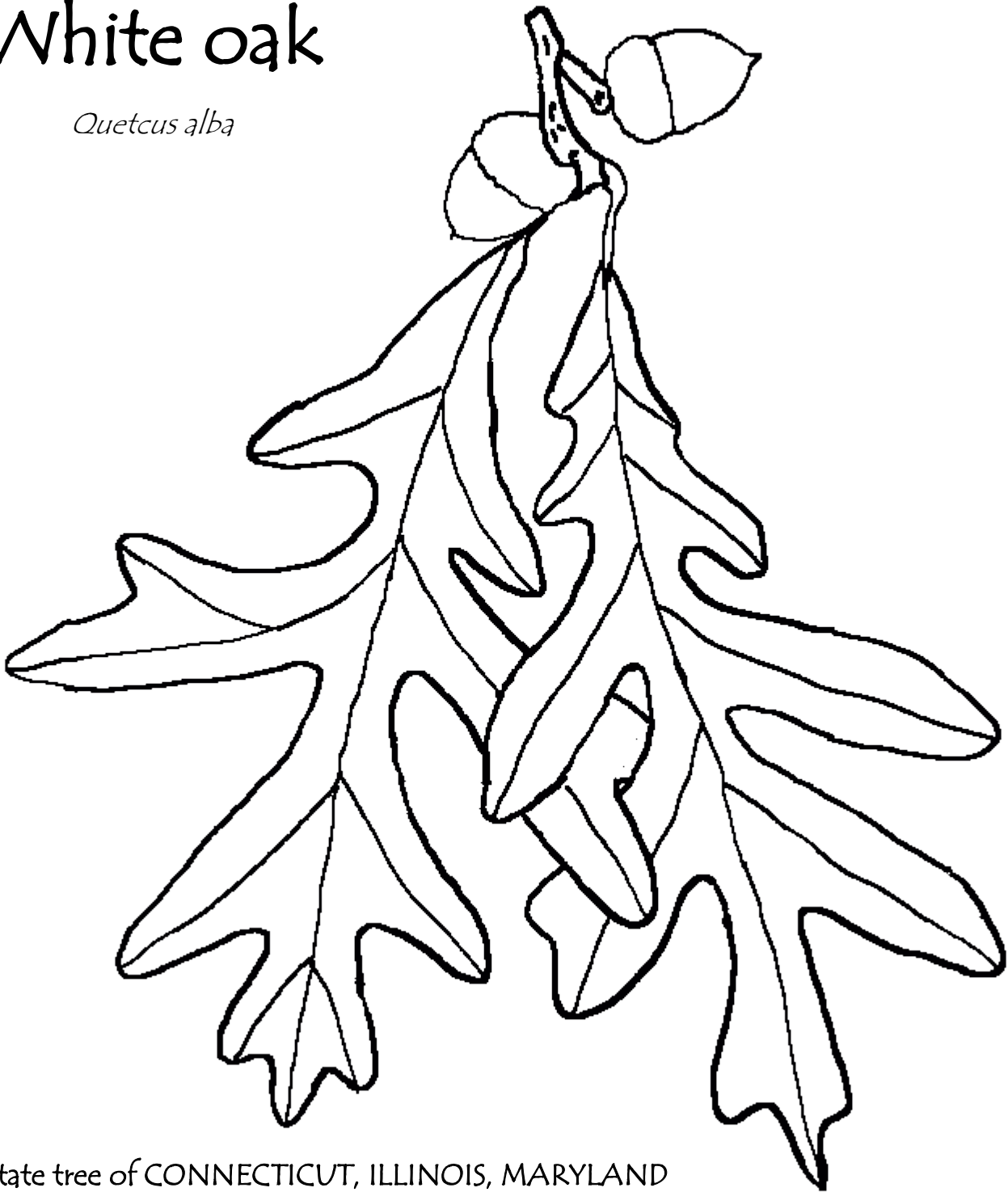


# White oak

*Quercus alba*



## State tree of CONNECTICUT, ILLINOIS, MARYLAND

The strong, hard wood of white oak was used to build the outer hull of the Revolutionary War frigate *U.S.S. Constitution*. When British cannonballs were deflected by the ship's resilient hull in the War of 1812, she was nicknamed "Old Ironsides." Maryland's Wye Oak was the largest white oak in the United States, and a state park was created to protect it. The tree fell in 2002 during a thunderstorm. It was estimated to have been over 460 years old -- older than the state of Maryland. Look for medium to tall tree; leaves five to nine inches long, outlined with seven to 10 distinctive, deeply rounded lobes; flowers small, wind-pollinated, on hanging catkins; acorns are one-half to one inch long, one quarter of which is enclosed under the cap.

Source: U.S. Forest Service