Fagaceae
The Oak and Beech Family
7 genera
900 species

Distribution:
Widespread in tropical to temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. In total, Fagaceae represents a huge biomass, possibly exceeded only by the conifers. This family also has a long fossil record, with the origin dated to about 90 million years ago.

Economic Uses:
- This family is the source of a majority of the world's hardwood timbers, the most notable being oak, beech and chestnut.
- Commercial cork is derived from the bark of the Mediterranean cork oak (Quercus suber).
- Many species of chestnut, but especially Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa), are grown for their large, edible nuts.
- The Iowa state tree is the Red Oak (Q. rubra).

Rosids: Reduced Phylogeny of Required Families

Characteristic features:
- Trees and shrubs.
- Flowers: unisexual (monoceious); usually 6 reduced/inconspicuous tepals; 4 to many stamens; 3(-12) carpels, connate in an inferior ovary.
- Male inflorescences in dangling catkins.
- Female inflorescences in sessile clusters.
- Fruit: a nut, associated with a spiny or scaly cupule.

Required genus: Quercus

References for further inquiry: