

Chittam

Chittam (Current taxonomy is *Sideroxylon lanuginosum*, although most of us still refer it to as *Bumelia lanuginosa*.) Chittam is one of my favorite woody plants, and I suspect many species of wildlife in the Rolling Plains would concur. At RPQRR chittam is restricted mostly to riparian areas, but further east (e.g., Shackelford County) it can be found commonly on upland sites. Chittam often forms a thicket which serves as an excellent “quail house.” The fruits of chittam are black and about the size of a raisin. The seed therein is a caramel color and is a favorite of many birds, and some mammals (especially coyotes and raccoons). This past year was a god one for chittam; it’s fruits still adorn the thickets out of our headquarters. Doves, and various songbirds, have flocked thereto. For more information, and pictures, see www.noble.org

