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Quercus pungens

[Synonyms : *Quercus undulata* var. *pungens*, *Quercus undulata* var. *wrightii*]

SANDPAPER OAK is a semi-evergreen shrub or tree. Native to south-western North America, it has glossy yellowish-green leaves and warty, pale brown acorns.

It is also known as *Chêne papier de verre* (French), Encino, Live oak, Pungent oak, Scrub oak, Scrub live oak, Shin oak, Small oak, and Vasey oak.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind. This tree attracts insects which produce galls.

Sandpaper oak can be confused with vasey oak, *Quercus pungens* var. *vaseyana* (not as yet included) but the latter's leaves are semi-evergreen, have fewer teeth and are smoother on top.

Pungens means 'sharp-pointed, spiny or piercing'.

The bark yields a gum that has been used for chewing.

The galls have provided a source of a material dye, especially a golden-beige.

Locally the wood has been used for making fence posts and burnt as fuel.