

Quercus robur

[Synonyms : *Quercus abbreviata*, *Quercus acutiloba*, *Quercus aesculus*, *Quercus aestivalis*, *Quercus afghanistanensis*, *Quercus altissima*, *Quercus appenina* var. *cylindracea*, *Quercus appenina* var. *rumelica*, *Quercus arenaria*, *Quercus argentea*, *Quercus asterotricha*, *Quercus atropurpurea*, *Quercus atosanguinea*, *Quercus atrovirens*, *Quercus auzin*, *Quercus avellanoides*, *Quercus axillaris*, *Quercus bedoi*, *Quercus bellogradensis*, *Quercus borealis* var. *pilosa*, *Quercus brevipes*, *Quercus brutia* subsp. *haas*, *Quercus brutia*, *Quercus castanoides*, *Quercus comptoniifolia*, *Quercus concordia*, *Quercus condensata*, *Quercus coriifolia*, *Quercus crispa*, *Quercus cunisecta*, *Quercus cuprea*, *Quercus cupressoides*, *Quercus cylindracea*, *Quercus dilatata*, *Quercus dissecta*, *Quercus estremadurensis*, *Quercus ettingeri*, *Quercus extensa*, *Quercus falkenbergensis*, *Quercus farinosa*, *Quercus fastigiata*, *Quercus femina*, *Quercus fennessii*, *Quercus filicifolia*, *Quercus filipendula*, *Quercus foemida*, *Quercus fructipendula*, *Quercus geltowiensis*, *Quercus germanica*, *Quercus germanica* var. *longipedunculata*, *Quercus germanica* var. *macrobalana*, *Quercus germanica* var. *pinnatifida*, *Quercus germanica* forma *puberula*, *Quercus haas*, *Quercus hentzei*, *Quercus horizontalis*, *Quercus hyemalis*, *Quercus laciniata*, *Quercus lasistan*, *Quercus longiglans*, *Quercus longipedunculata*, *Quercus louettii*, *Quercus lucorum*, *Quercus malacophylla*, *Quercus malacophylla* var. *asterotricha*, *Quercus microcarpa*, *Quercus monorensis*, *Quercus nigricans*, *Quercus ochracea*, *Quercus paleacea*, *Quercus palmata*, *Quercus parmenteria*, *Quercus pectinata*, *Quercus pedemontana*, *Quercus pedunculata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *acutifolia*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *australis*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *borealis*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *brachybalana*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *brachybalanus*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *brevipes*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *coriacea*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *crassiuscula*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *cuneifolia*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *cylindrocarpa*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *dauvessei-pendula*, *Quercus pedunculata* forma *ettingeri*, *Quercus pedunculata* forma *extensa*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *fastigiata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *glaberrima*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *globulata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *haas*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *leptobalanos*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *macrobalana*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *macrobalanus*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *malacophylla*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *megabalana*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *microbalanus*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *opaca*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *pachycarpa*, *Quercus pedunculata* forma *patellulata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *pendula-heterophylla*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *pendula-libani*, *Quercus pedunculata* subsp. *pilosa*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *pseudopedunculata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *pseudosessilis*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *salicifolia-pendula*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *sphaerobalanus*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *stenocarpa*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *subglobosa*, *Quercus pedunculata* forma *tardissima*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *tricuspidata*, *Quercus pedunculata* var. *tubulosa*, *Quercus pendula*, *Quercus pendulina*, *Quercus pendulina* var. *filipendula*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus pilosa*, *Quercus pseudopedunculata*, *Quercus pseudoschorochensis*, *Quercus pseudosessilis*, *Quercus pseudotscharakensis*, *Quercus pulverulenta*, *Quercus purpurea*, *Quercus pyramidalis*, *Quercus racemosa*, *Quercus robur* var. *acutifolia*, *Quercus robur* var. *australis*, *Quercus*

robur var. *brachybalana*, *Quercus robur* forma *brachybalanus*, *Quercus robur* var. *brevipedunculata*, *Quercus robur* var. *brevipes*, *Quercus robur* var. *brevipetiolata*, *Quercus robur* var. *brevisecta*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *broteroana*, *Quercus robur* var. *chartacea*, *Quercus robur* var. *coriacea*, *Quercus robur* forma *crassiuscula*, *Quercus robur* *crustata*, *Quercus robur* var. *cuneifolia*, *Quercus robur* var. *duplicatosinuata*, *Quercus robur* var. *estremadurensis*, *Quercus robur* var. *ettingeri*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *eurobur*, *Quercus robur* var. *extensa*, *Quercus robur* var. *farinosa*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *fastigiata*, *Quercus robur* var. *glaberrima*, *Quercus robur* var. *globulata*, *Quercus robur* var. *haas*, *Quercus robur* var. *inaequiloba*, *Quercus robur* var. *jankae*, *Quercus robur* var. *laciniata*, *Quercus robur* var. *latiloba*, *Quercus robur* var. *leptocarpa*, *Quercus robur* var. *longiloba*, *Quercus robur* var. *macrobalanos*, *Quercus robur* forma *macrobalanus*, *Quercus robur* var. *malacophylla*, *Quercus robur* var. *microbalanos*, *Quercus robur* forma *microbalanus*, *Quercus robur* var. *olsonii*, *Quercus robur* var. *opaca*, *Quercus robur* var. *pachycarpa*, *Quercus robur* var. *paleacea*, *Quercus robur* var. *patellulata*, *Quercus robur* var. *pauciloba*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *pedunculata*, *Quercus robur* var. *pendula*, *Quercus robur* var. *pilifera*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *pilosa*, *Quercus robur* var. *platylepis*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *puberula*, *Quercus robur* var. *repanda*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *robur*, *Quercus robur* var. *robusta*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *slavonica*, *Quercus robur* var. *sphaerobalana*, *Quercus robur* forma *sphaerobalanus*, *Quercus robur* var. *stenocarpa*, *Quercus robur* var. *subglobosa*, *Quercus robur* forma *subpraecox*, *Quercus robur* var. *tardissima*, *Quercus robur* var. *tenuifolia*, *Quercus robur* var. *tricuspidata*, *Quercus robur* var. *tubulosa*, *Quercus robur* subsp. *xylolepis*, *Quercus rubens*, *Quercus rubicunda*, *Quercus rumelica*, *Quercus scolopendrifolia*, *Quercus sessiliflora* var. *condensata*, *Quercus sessiliflora* var. *microcarpa*, *Quercus sessiliflora* var. *pedemontana*, *Quercus sieboldii*, *Quercus speciensis*, *Quercus subvelutina*, *Quercus svecica*, *Quercus tardiflora*, *Quercus tennesi*, *Quercus tetracarpa*, *Quercus tozzae*, *Quercus tricolor*, *Quercus turbinata*, *Quercus viminalis*, *Quercus virgata*, *Quercus vulgaris*, *Quercus welandii*]

OAK is a deciduous tree. Native to North Africa, western Asia and to Europe (including Britain) it has greenish-yellow catkins.

It is also known as Aac, Acherne, Achorn, Ackernel, Akeron, Akher, Akhern, Akran, Akyr, Archarde, Atckern, Atchorn, *Ballut Ingliza* (Maltese), *Bouvre* (French), British oak, Brown oak, *Carvalho comum* (Portuguese), *Chêne* (French), *Chêne à grappes* (French), *Chêne pédonculé* (French), *Chêne rouvre* (French), Common oak, Cups and ladles, Cups and saucers, *Derwen Goesog* (Welsh), *Dub letní* (Czech), *Dub letný* (Slovak), *Eiche* (German), Eike tree, *Ek* (Swedish), English oak, *Eschio farnia* (German), European oak, Frying pans, Hatch horn, Jove's nuts, Knappers, *Křemelák* (Czech), *Letňák* (Czech), Mace, Macey-tree, Mast, *Majoo* (Urdu), Oak atchern, Ovest, *Pédonculé* (French), Pedunculate oak, *Pelud mesesi* (Turkish), Pipes, *Quêne* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Querce comune* (Italian), *Quercia pedunculata* (Italian), *Querciola* (Italian), *Roble* (Portuguese, Spanish), *Roble albar* (Spanish), *Robre* (Spanish), *Roburo* (Esperanto), *Roteiche* (German), *Rotheiche* (German), *Rovere* (Italian), Rump, *Skogsek* (Swedish), *Sommarek* (Swedish), *Sommereiche* (German), *Steileiche* (German), *Stejar* (Rumanian), *Stjälkek* (Swedish), *Tammi* (Finnish), Tanner's bark, *Tchêne* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Tom Paine, Trail, Woke, Wuk, Yachrans, Yak, Yapper, Yeaker, Yek, Yik, and *Zomereik* (Dutch); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of bravery (leaves), courage, faith, fire, flames, honour, hospitality (tree), humanity, independence, liberty (live), longevity, reward, royalty, stability, and welcome.

Oak galls or oak apples are round growths that can be found nearly anywhere on this tree and are caused by larvae of certain insects.

Warning – buds, leaves (particularly in Spring) and acorns are poisonous for some animals. *Robur* is Latin (hard wood, strength) and is the Latin name for the species *Quercus robur* (oak) and is specific to this English oak.

The oak tree is believed to be able to reach an age of 1,200 years.

In a 'bad' year (in Britain certainly) the acorns can often appear mis-shapen from the attentions of the gall-wasp. This insect is responsible for Knopper gall which can encrust part of the acorn cup and fruit.

This tree appears in the arms of Colonel William Carlos or Careless (died 1659). It was he who was supposed to have hid his king, Charles II of Great Britain and Ireland, in the upper branches of an oak tree after the Battle of Worcester in September 1651 and then fled with him to France.

The heavy timber can be used for building and furniture. The bark is used for tanning leather, and by the food industry for smoking food eg. fish. Oak is used by the pharmaceutical industry in some proprietary medicines, and the wood is used for making barrels for storing alcohol eg. whisky.

Medicinally, herbalists used the bark to treat lung disorders, fevers, haemorrhages, dysentery, bleeding gums and piles. A decoction of the leaves was a recommended treatment for ringworm. The acorn (powdered or grated) was prescribed for the treatment of diarrhoea. Galls were used particularly as a remedy for dysentery, venereal diseases, diarrhoea and cholera. Today the bark can still be employed in the treatment of diarrhoea and piles, and as a gargle for throat disorders – and is used in homoeopathic treatments.

The oak leaf is the birthday 'flower' for 24th January.