

# English Oak

*Quercus robur*

Probably the best known tree in England, a stately tree with a storied history. This is the tree of King Arthur and Sherwood forest, imported to the US from England. They live for hundreds of years and have been historically important for timber. The wood has been used to build ships, houses, and furniture, but is also renowned for its use in casks for maturing wines and spirits. Its low branches reach 60 feet. It is very soil tolerant and survives well in a wide range of pH and moisture regimes.



## Identification

### Leaves

Simple, alternate, lobed and oblong. Glossy green turning copper in autumn. Leaves persist well into winter.



### Flower/Fruit

Monoecious; flowers are brown and inconspicuous. Acorns are brown 1-3 inch elongated ovals. Fruit matures in one year.



### Bark/Wood

Mature bark is gray and furrowed. The lightly colored wood is heavy, hard, and strong.



### Form

Broadly spreading form generally as wide as it is tall. Low branches persist.



### Uses

The strong wood is used in construction, flooring, furniture, and cask making for maturing wines and spirits. Acorns are a prime wildlife food.

### Ethnobotany

The English Oak has been an important timber tree since recorded history. It was (and in many cases, remains) the wood of shipbuilding, construction, and barrel making.

### Native Distribution

Native to the United Kingdom.

### Establishment

## Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size 60'Hx60'Wx6'dbh  
 USDA Zone 5-8  
 Light Requirements Full Sun

Soils Diverse  
 Drought Tolerant? Yes  
 Inundation Tolerant? Yes

### Pests/Damaging Agents

Powdery mildew can be a serious problem in humid areas. Anthracnose can be a problem in wet climates. Cultural controls are generally sufficient. Insect pests are numerous, but generally not serious.

### Similar Species

### Propagation

Seed.

### Source(s)

Seed collected from Cornell Plantation, NY.