

# Turkey Oak

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Quercus cerris*

**AKA:** Wainscot Oak, Derwen Twrci (Welsh)

**Native to:** South-central Europe to south-west Asia

**Habitat:** Parkland, dry grassland and heathland

A deciduous oak which has a long straight trunk and is regularly planted as an ornamental tree in parklands. The leaf lobes are more pointed than native oaks and the leaf buds have distinctive whiskers, which are obvious in winter. The acorn also has a distinctive 'furry' cup, very different to the native oak acorns.

By 1735, it was widely cultivated in Britain and was first recorded in the wild in 1905. Since then there has been a large increase in population and the species has aggressively colonised sandier, acid soils and displaced native vegetation.

Turkey Oak is a host of the Knopper Gall Wasp (*Andricus quercuscalicis*), which in spring forms small galls within the catkins of the Turkey Oak. The female wasps that develop from these galls then lay eggs within the acorns of Pedunculate Oak (native, aka English Oak) inducing galls to develop and therefore affecting the fertility of the Pedunculate Oak and reducing the viability of the acorns.

It is host to alternate generations of the Knopper gall wasp which can affect the ability of native oaks to regenerate.

For details of legislation go to [www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation).



## Key ID Features



Acorn cup has furry appearance

Ends of lobes pointed



Distinct 'whiskers' surrounding leaf bud

Leaf lobes variable with deep cuts close to midrib

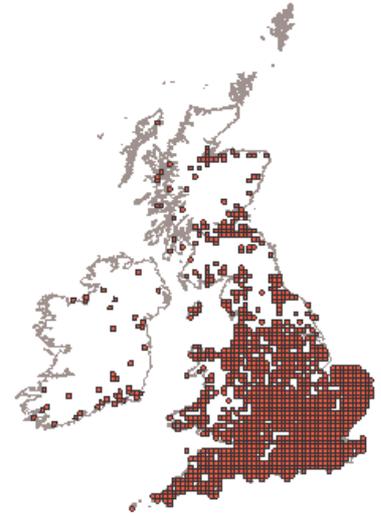
# Identification throughout the year

Can be identified in spring and summer by the characteristic leaves and throughout the year by the distinctive 'whiskers' surrounding the leaf bud. During the winter, look for fallen leaves and acorn cups. The bark has a greyish colour and becomes deeply fissured, eventually cracking to form square convex plates

# Distribution

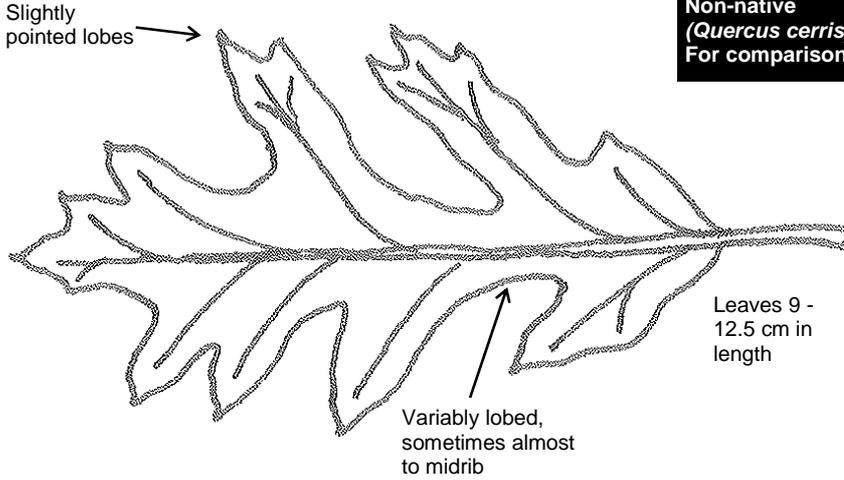
Widespread over the British lowlands.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution.



# Similar Species

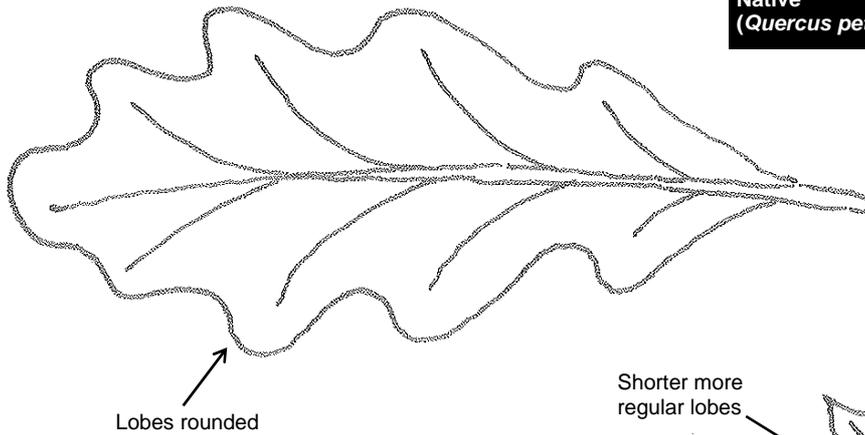
**Turkey Oak**  
Non-native  
(*Quercus cerris*)  
For comparison



Leaves 9 - 12.5 cm in length

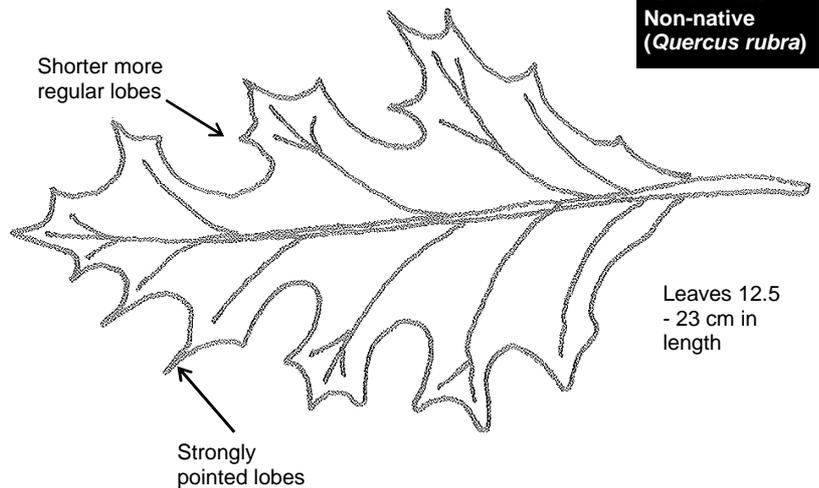
Turkey oak acorns have a distinctive 'furry' cup; the Sessile, Red and Pedunculate oak acorns do not.

**Sessile Oak**  
Native  
(*Quercus petraea*)



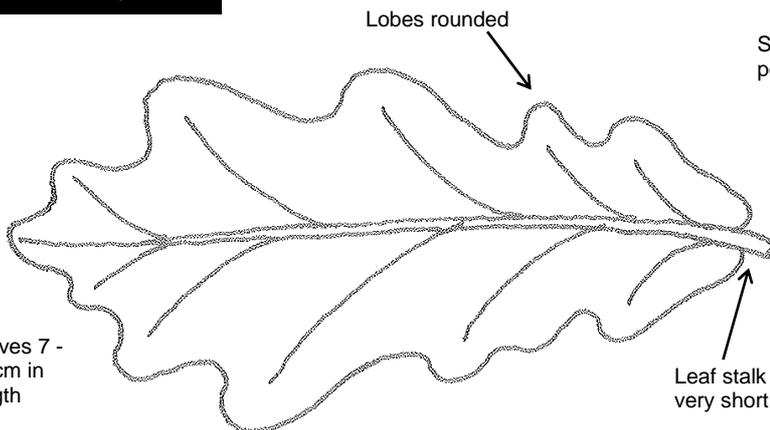
Leaves 7 - 14 cm in length

**Red Oak**  
Non-native  
(*Quercus rubra*)



Leaves 12.5 - 23 cm in length

**Pedunculate Oak**  
Native  
(*Quercus robur*)



Leaves 7 - 14 cm in length

## References and further reading:

Johnson, O and More, D (2004) "*Collins Tree Guide*". HarperCollins

Preston, C D, Pearman, D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) "*New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*". Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1999) "*Field Flora of the British Isles*". Cambridge University Press