BURNCOOSE NURSERIES PART OF THE CAERHAYS ESTATE

Quercus - Care Guide

Introduction

Oak

There are at least 600 species of Quercus (even excluding Lithocarpus) and Burncoose currently stocks around 20. We have however tried to select those varieties which are hardy enough to grow well in UK gardens, those which have something particularly novel or exciting to offer in their leaf formations and appearance as well as the more common oak species which need very little introduction here.

Over the years we have tried to grow many of the newly introduced Mexican oaks. A good few of these have failed, not just with us, but in other SW gardens because they are, in the main, simply not hardy enough for our climate.

The author is a member of the International Oak Society whose members exchange oak seed with each other and we have therefore grown quite a few more species than we currently offer. Many oak species are really the preserve of the serious oak collector. There are superb oak specie collections at Penrice Castle gardens on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales, and at Chevithorne Manor in Devon where the late Michael Heathcoat-Amory established an oak garden which is now a Plant Heritage national collection of oaks. If you want to see at least 400 different oak species in one place Chevithorne is the place to go!

To make this confusing and complex genus easier to understand and to help in choosing oaks which gardeners may want to try we have categorised the species which we offer as follows:



Quercus cerris



Quercus nigra



Quercus nigra



Quercus palustris



Quercus phellos



Quercus stenophylloides



Young Q. canariensis



Q. canariensis with split trunk



Quercus wizlizeni

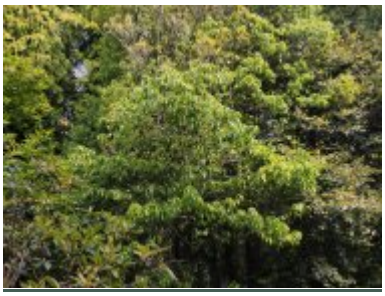


Quercus virginiana



Quercus wizlizeni

Q. myrsinifolia grows at Caerhays as a windbreak hedge. It grows to around 20-30ft with us in maturity and has lance-shaped leaves which are 5in long. The new growth is, briefly, an attractive bronze red. Our plants only very seldom produce solitary acorns. This is a Chinese and Japanese species.



Quercus myrsinifolia



Quercus myrsinifolia



Quercus myrsinifolia new growth



Quercus phillyreoides



Quercus rhysophylla ‘Maya’



Quercus rhysophylla ‘Maya’



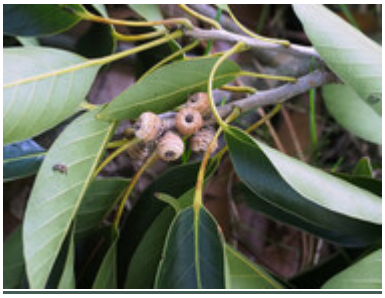
Quercus rhysophylla ‘Maya’



Quercus acuta



Quercus acuta



Quercus acuta



Quercus acuta



Quercus acuta



Quercus semecarpifolia



Quercus semecarpifolia



Quercus semecarpifolia



Quercus semecarpifolia

Q.semecarpifolia with brushes on leaves

Q.semecarpifolia with brushes on leaves.

Q. ilex, the ilex oak, should need no introduction as a superb wind tolerant species in coastal or exposed conditions. It makes an excellent hedge on the edge of the garden and its leaves, grey-brown on the undersides, rustle in the wind. These trees are just as important to protecting Cornish woodland gardens as Pinus insignis.



Quercus ilex



Quercus ilex as hedge

Q. virginiana, the lire oak, has leathery leaves which are green above and whitish underneath. It grows into a large tree in the SE USA but it can be tender outside western counties in the UK.



Quercus virginiana



Quercus virginiana



Quercus insignis



Quercus insignis



Quercus insignis



Quercus insignis



Quercus insignis

The two best known for their autumn colours are perhaps Q. coccinea, the scarlet oak, and Q. rubra, the red oak. Both are North American trees which play a big part in the amazing autumnal displays there. The yellow leafed form of Q. rubra is outstanding too all through the season. At Wisley a huge plant of Q. rubra ‘Aurea’ greets you not far inside the garden entrance.

However Q. dentata ‘Carl Ferris Miller’ and ‘Sir Harold Hillier’ are both excellent forms of the Diamo oak. This grows quite slowly into a statuesque branching tree with huge ovate green leaves which gradually turn brown and hold on the tree right through the winter to give a very pleasing effect. ‘Sir Harold Hillier’ has the added bonus of deep orange to pink autumn colour.



Quercus dentata



Q. 'Sir Harold Hillier'



Q. 'Sir Harold Hillier'



Q. 'Sir Harold Hillier'



Q.dentata 'Carl Ferris Miller'



Q.dentata 'Carl Ferris Miller'



Quercus liaotungensis



Quercus liaotungensis

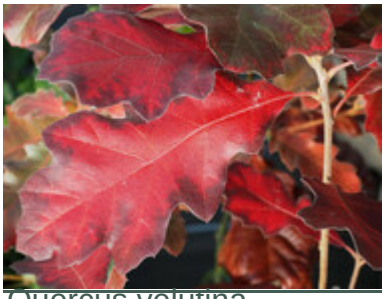


Quercus liaotungensis


Quercus velutina


Quercus velutina


Quercus velutina


Quercus velutina

Q. buckleyi, the Texas red oak, has exceptional autumn colours too but its new growth is bright red both in spring, and again in autumn, when it produces a second set of red growth. This keeps its new leaves long into winter with us but is actually deciduous.


Quercus buckleyi


Quercus buckleyi


Quercus buckleyi




Quercus 'Chimney Fire'


Quercus 'Chimney Fire'


Quercus 'Chimney Fire'

Uplifting Quercus - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here https://www.youtube.com/nfwVMALfmz4

Maintaining Variegation - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here https://www.youtube.com/94EABHh11Ko

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