Quercus cerris
Turkey Oak, Bitter Oak, Iron Oak, Austrian Oak

Quercus cerris (Turkey oak) is a large, fast-growing tree found in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The Turkey oak is a prominent species in deciduous forests where it grows with, amongst others, *Quercus frainetto, Fraxinus ornus* and *Euonymus europaeus*. It largely dominates the canopy. *Quercus cerris* was first described by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in 1753. In its juvenile state, it has a conical crown. Mature, free-standing specimens may develop a more rounded crown. *Quercus cerris* can reach a height of 40 metres and develops a substantial trunk with a densely branched crown.

The dark green leaves of *Quercus cerris* are lanceolate with a deeply lobed edge and felty, grey underside. The warmer its site of origin, the more deeply lobed the leaves. The foliage turns yellow in autumn, later russet-brown and can stay on the tree until the spring, which is certainly the case with juvenile trees. The buds are covered with long scales, making it fairly easy to identify. The Turkey oak produces inconspicuous, green catkins in April or May at the same time as the first young leaves emerge. The acorns vary in quantity and shape but are mostly elliptical. The cup is covered with long scales and acorns do not ripen until the second year. The bark of the Turkey oak is dark grey, rough and peeling to a certain extent, as it ages.

This heat-loving oak is likely to become a more common sight in future in Northern Europe with a warming climate. As a fast-growing tree it also puts down a taproot which makes it an excellent choice for drier conditions; far more suited than *Quercus robur* and *Quercus petraea*. Unlike these oaks, it does not get mildew. *Quercus cerris* can cope with road salt and air pollution and is suitable for planting on acidic and alkaline soils; it will even grow on thin chalk soils. Because it grows rapidly on all types of soil, the Turkey oak is frequently used to counter erosion. It is a perfect tree for larger parks and road verges where there is plenty of space available for it to develop its true monumental character.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock

USE

Location: avenue, square, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone, windbreak, coastal area | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting, Landscape planting, Solid planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 20 - 40 m | **Width**: 10 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, discrete | **Flower colour**: green | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: dark green, underside grey | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, polished, rough, underside hairy, dissected, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, yellow-brown | **Fruits**: striking, acorn | **Fruit colour**: brown, green | **Bark colour**: grey, grey-black | **Bark**: peeling, furrowed | **Twig colour**: olive green | **Twigs**: hairy, long shoots | **Root system**: deep, extensive