Quercus frainetto
Hungarian Oak, Italian oak

*Quercus frainetto (*Hungarian oak) is a tree that is widespread in the Balkans, North-West Turkey and some parts of Italy. Along with *Quercus cerris*, the Hungarian oak largely dominates the canopy of extensive deciduous forests at lower elevations on deep, acidic soils. *Quercus frainetto* becomes a large tree approximately twenty-five to thirty metres tall and twenty metres wide. It develops an ornamental round crown on a single stem, which makes it a very valuable source of timber in its native range. As a pioneer species, the juvenile, fast-growing tree has erect branches, splaying over time. It is also often used for coppicing, thus forming characteristic multi-stem specimens.

The Hungarian oak blooms with small green catkins in May, coinciding with the emerging new, light green foliage. Later the foliage turns deep green with deeply lobed, highly ornamental leaves which turn yellow and russet-brown in October and sometimes the leaves stay on the tree until spring. The bark of *Quercus frainetto* is grey-brown with deep cracks. The acorns are small, rounded with a hairy cup. They provide food for birds and small mammals. All kinds of fungi and insects find a habitat in the bark and branches of this tree.

In parks and larger gardens, where there is room for such a monumental tree, *Quercus frainetto* makes a wonderful addition. Plant the Hungarian oak in dry and acidic to very acidic soils (where it can develop deep roots). Paving and air pollution and, to some extent, road salt are not a problem for this oak and so it can be used in cities, in a warm micro-climate, in sites where the acorns do not cause a nuisance. Flooding and chalky ground may be problematic. Previously, this tree often used to be grafted on *Quercus robur* but there is a very high chance of delayed incompatibility.

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, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 20 - 30 m | **Width**: 12 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 8B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, raceme, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: golden yellow | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: dark green, buds pale green | **Leaves**: deciduous, obovate, polished, dissected, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, yellow-brown | **Fruits**: striking, rich fruit yield, acorn | **Fruit colour**: brown, green | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: olive green, grey | **Twigs**: hairy, bare, thickly branched | **Root system**: deep, tap root

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