Quercus pubescens
Downy oak, Pubescent oak

Quercus pubescens (Downy oak) is one of the most widespread tree species south of the Danube. Its original habitat stretches from Northern Spain to the Caucasus. The species was first described by the German botanist Carl Ludwig Willdenow in the south of France in 1796. In Mediterranean countries, the downy oak has an important added value because of its symbiosis with truffles, which live on the roots of the tree. In northern Europe, *Quercus pubescens* also grows into a beautiful big tree, and while it will not reach 20 metres in height here, it will surely get to be between 12 - 16 metres tall. The downy oak has a wide ovoid, semi-transparent crown shape, with irregular growing branches.

In late April, early May, *Quercus pubescens* blooms discrete, hanging, golden yellow catkins. The typical lobate oak leaves bud green and turn yellow in autumn. The name downy refers to the felty hair of the buds, annual twigs, and the young leaves. In autumn, the ends of the branches are adorned with racemes of long, thin acorns, which are eaten by birds and small mammals. With its cork-like, deeply furrowed bark, the tree can handle heat very well.

Quercus pubescens naturally grows along with species including *Quercus ilex*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Ostrya carpinifolia* and *Celtis*. The downy oak originally likes to grow in sunny, warm places, in lime-rich and wet mountain slopes, but tolerates practically all types of soil and can thus be widely used. The tree tolerates draught, heat, wind, air pollution and salt spray and is thus fantastic for uses in urban areas. *Quercus pubescens* exhibits visual similarities with the *Quercus robur*, which does not grow in cities, and is thus a good substitute in areas where the common oak does not do well.

SEASONAL COLOURS

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

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, Landscape planting, Solid planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 16 - 20 m | **Width**: 12 - 16 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 8B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour**: golden yellow | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, obovate, underside hairy, laciniate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: raceme, acorn | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: deeply furrowed | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: hairy | **Root system**: extensive, highly branched

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