

Quercus robur 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' English Oak¹

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Introduction

'Fastigiata' or upright English Oak is an upright, columnar, deciduous tree which eventually matures into a dense elongated oval shape with a short trunk and makes a striking landscape specimen. Growing moderately-fast to 50 to 60 feet high and only 10 to 18 feet wide, upright English Oak was first discovered growing wild in a forest in Germany and was propagated by grafting in 1783. The 2.5 to 5-inch-long by 1 to 2.5-inch-wide leaves maintain their dark green color throughout the year until they turn brown in autumn. They often remain on the tree for some time before dropping. The attractive, dark brown bark is deeply ridged and furrowed, and the one-inch acorns persist on the tree throughout the winter.

General Information

Scientific name: *Quercus robur*

Pronunciation: KWERK-us ROE-ber

Common name(s): 'Fastigiata' English Oak

Family: *Fagaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5A through 8B (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: invasive non-native

Uses: street without sidewalk; screen; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; urban tolerant; highway median

Availability: not native to North America

Description

Height: 50 to 60 feet

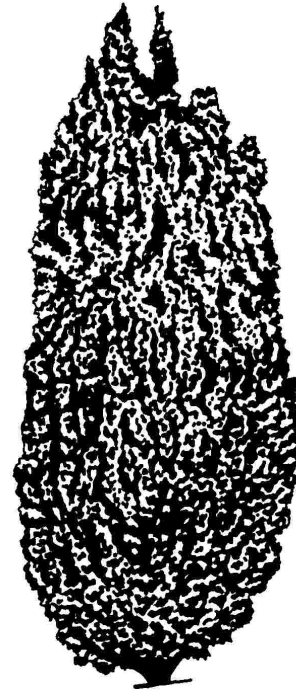


Figure 1. Mature *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' English Oak

Spread: 10 to 18 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: columnar, upright/erect

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

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Figure 2. Range

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: cleft, lobed
Leaf shape: obovate, oblong
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: copper
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower

Flower color: brown
Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval, elongated
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels/mammals; not showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns
Pruning requirement: little required
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: reddish, brown
Current year twig thickness: medium
Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun
Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high
Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Other

Roots: not a problem
Winter interest: yes
Outstanding tree: yes
Ozone sensitivity: sensitive
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant
Pest resistance: sensitive to pests/diseases

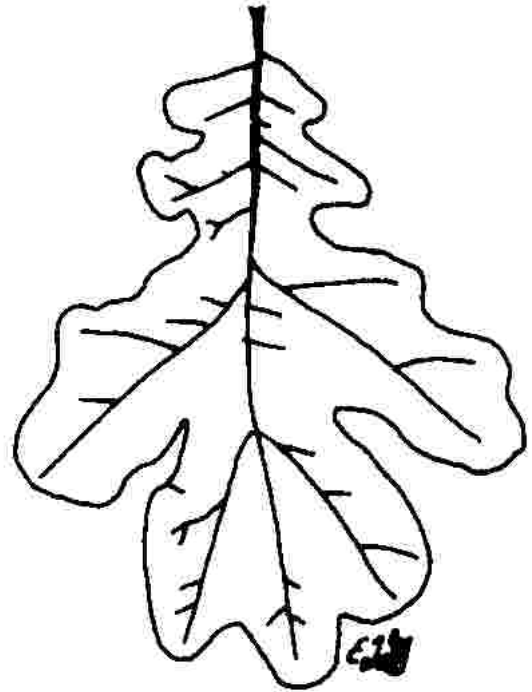


Figure 3. Foliage

Use and Management

Upright English Oak is useful in areas where there is not much room for lateral branch growth. The crown remains tight with no branches wandering away from the trunk. Some people object to the persistent brown leaves in the fall, but others like the tree for this trait. They have been used successfully for planting on 15 to 25-foot-centers along an entrance road to a commercial landscape and for downtown tree planting projects where soil space is extremely limited.

The tree should be grown in full sun on well-drained, acid or slightly alkaline soil. The tree is very tolerant of urban conditions, is adaptable and should be grown and used more. Few trees in the east are seen without powdery mildew. Locate in full-day sun to help reduce this problem.

Trees in the drier climates in the mid-west probably are less affected by powdery mildew.

'Attention' also has an upright, columnar form and is reportedly mildew-resistant.

Propagation is by seed, although there is some seedling variation.

Pests

No pests are of major concern but occasionally bothered by gypsy moth and borers. There are many other potential problems.

Diseases

Some possible diseases are powdery mildew, Oak wilt, anthracnose, cankers. There are many other potential problems.