**Quercus robur ‘Fastigiata’: ‘Fastigiata’ English Oak**

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

---

**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  
**Spread:** 10 to 18 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical  
**Crown shape:** columnar, upright/erect  
**Crown density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** moderate  
**Texture:** medium
**Quercus robur ‘Fastigiata’: ‘Fastigiata’ English Oak**

**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
- **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

**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.