



# QUERCUS PETRAEA

Fam. Fagaceae

## DESCRIPTION

Large deciduous tree up to 35 m tall. It has a straight trunk that branches out at different levels.

## HABITAT

Its distributional area spans from central Europe to north-eastern Europe.

## DISTRIBUTION

In Italy, it can be found in alpine and pre-alpine valleys and the Apennines. Also used as an ornamental plant, the sessile oak is grown as an isolated specimen in large clearings or rows.

## FLOWERS

Being a monoecious species, it has pendulous male catkins and small sessile female catkins. The flowers bloom in April together with foliage.

## LEAVES

Simple alternate lobed leaves with a well-developed petiole (longer than 1 cm).

## FRUITS

Ovate and oblong sessile achenes (acorns) with a cupule covered by overlapping squamules.

## BARK

Grey-brown bark; initially smooth, it tends to crack finely over time, especially in the longitudinal direction.

## INTERESTING FACTS

The oak feeds many species of lepidoptera and its wood is home to numerous insects. The oak wood is quite valuable and is used in the manufacture of furniture as well as in construction – for beams and parquet flooring – and in the production of staves for barrels used for ageing wines and other alcoholic beverages.

## ROOTS

Well-developed roots, long and robust; when young, they tend to form a taproot.

