

Oak

Quercus spp.

Quercus species, particularly *Q. cerris* (Turkey oak) and *Q. robur* (English oak), are considered environmental weeds or invasive in regions outside their native range, such as New Zealand and parts of Australia, due to their ability to spread from intentional plantings. These fast-growing, deciduous trees can invade native habitats and threaten local ecosystems.

Identification

Quercus (oaks) are identified by their alternate, often lobed leaves, clustered terminal buds, and fruit (acorns). Key identification features include leaf lobe shape (rounded for white oaks, pointed/bristled for red oaks), bark texture, and the presence of stipules on buds. They are mostly deciduous or evergreen trees with monoecious flowers.



Leaves: Alternate leaf arrangement, generally with lobed margins (can be entire in some species).

Fruit (Acorns): A one-seeded nut partially enclosed in a scaly, woody cup (cupule).

Buds: Clustered at the tips of twigs.

Bark: Frequently deeply furrowed or ridged, though some species have flaky bark.

Flowers: Monoecious, with male flowers in pendulous catkins.

Control

Effective control of *Quercus* (oak) species involves hand-pulling of seedlings, use of herbicides (glyphosate or triclopyr) to control young well rooted plants. Drill & fill with glyphosate for established trees.

Spread: Acorn seeds are very sought after by ungulates and pigs. Unchewed seeds will survive the digestive system of these animals, and can lead to outlier trees in remote areas.

