



Quercus species in Colac Botanic Gardens

1. *Q. robur* – English oak/pedunculate oak

Native to Europe west of the Caucasus.
 Long lived, deciduous with large spreading crown, up to 35m tall & 25m, broad, deep-fissured blackish-grey bark. Named for the pedunculate (stalked) acorns which are a valuable food source for insects, small mammals & birds.
 Map: 60 along carriageway & 36 along southern fence line.



2. *Quercus acutissima* – sawtooth oak/bristle tipped oak/Japanese chestnut oak

Native to Eastern Asia
 Dark grey, deeply furrowed bark, deciduous, growing to 20 x 20m. Leaves to 20cm long, margined with bristle tipped teeth.
 Map: 1 in Lawn m



3. *Q. canariensis* – Algerian oak / Mirbeck oak

Native to South West Europe & northern Africa
 Deciduous to semi-evergreen, 20-30m tall, rugged thick black bark, leaves to 18cm long.
 Map: 4 in Lawns c [carriageway], h, n.



4. *Q. canariensis* x *Q. robur*

A hybridised specimen.
 Upright branches. *Quercus* species hybridise readily.
 Map: 1 in Lawn I [near Bed YY]



5. *Q. castaneifolia* – chestnut-leaved oak

Native to Caucasus & Alborz Mountains of Iran
 Up to 35m tall. The acorns are very bitter & only eaten by creatures when no other foods available.
 Map: 1 in Lawn b (on southern fence)



6. *Q. cerris* – Turkey oak/Austrian oak

Native to south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor
 Large 30 x 25m deciduous tree, deeply furrowed grey-white bark which splits in thick plates & often streaked orange near base.
 Map: 2 in Lawns l, n and one in carriageway



7. *Q. coccinea* – scarlet oak

Native to central & eastern North America
 Named for its red autumn colour, leaves have seven lobes with deep, C-shaped sinuses along between, each lobe has 3–7 bristle-tipped teeth. Pale grey-brown bark in scaly plates.
 Map: 1 in Bed KK, 2 in Lawn of Botanic Café.



8. *Q. dentata* – Daimyo oak/Japanese Emperor oak/Korean oak

Native to Japan, Korea & China
 One of largest oak leaves, up to 40cm with similar shape to *Q. robur* leaves.
 Map: 1 in Lawn f [carriageway]



9. *Q. ilex* – holly oak/holm oak/evergreen oak

Native to the Mediterranean region

Evergreen, 25 x 20m, Leaves silvery-grey when young, shape varies, most frequently 4–8 cm long, 1.2–2.5 cm wide, the margins sometimes smooth or more or less toothed. Smooth dark grey bark.

Map: 2 in Lawns g & I



10. *Q. palustris* – pin oak/swamp Spanish oak

Native to eastern & central North America & southern Canada

Short-lived with a maximum age of 120 years. 20 x 12m, a distinctive canopy shape. Leaves deeply cut, U-shaped sinuses along leaves. Often keeps dead leaves until new leaf growth. Acorn nearly spherical.

Map: 4 in Beds MM, RF, VV, Lawn h



11. *Q. phellos* – willow oak

Native to eastern & central North America

Leaves shaped like bright green willow leaves, without indentation along the edge. A prolific producer of acorns.

Map: 1 in Lawn I



12. *Q. robur* 'Fastigiata' – upright English oak/cypress oak

Native to Germany

It has a narrow columnar habit & grows 10–15m tall.

Map: 2 in Lawn g [on southern fence]



There is great diversity in the genus *Quercus* and there are various species that are well-suited to growing in the local conditions; many are drought tolerant, particularly some evergreen species from western USA, northern Africa and the Mediterranean region.

Oaks, *Quercus*, were planted very early in Colac's history and form part of the historic fabric of Colac Botanic Gardens and Colac's living landscape.

The Colac Botanic Gardens has 121 oaks, featuring 16 species or hybrids.

It is noted for the magnificent border of 96 *Quercus robur* (English Oak) that line the carriageway & the inside of the southern fence. Many of these were planted by Archie Campbell, probably in the 1920s.

Also along those borders are 8 other species: 2 *Quercus canarienses* (Algerian oak), 1 *Quercus castaneifolia* (chestnut-leaved oak), 1 *Quercus cerris* (Turkey oak), 1 *Quercus dentate* (Daimyo oak), 2 *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata' (upright English oak), & 1 *Quercus rubra* (red oak).

17 other oaks of various species grace the lawns.

We continue to add to the variety of *Quercus* species held and some lawn plantings are relatively young.



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13. *Q. rubra* – Northern red oak/champion oak

Native to eastern & central USA & south-east & south central Canada

Fast growing, broad crowned, dark mahogany to maroon autumn colour. The full length of its dark reddish-grey-brown bark features ridges that appear to have shiny stripes down the centre.

Map: 1 in Lawn e



14. *Q. schottkyana*

Native to south-western China

Rare, acorn sourced from Kunming Botanic Gardens and tree donated by the Australian Garden History Society in 2013.

Up to 20m tall, leaves can be 12cm long, thick & leathery.

Map: 1 in Lawn I



15. *Q. suber* – Cork Oak

Native to south-western Europe, north-western Africa

Planted to commemorate the new millennium, January 2000.

Medium sized evergreen 20 x 20m. Its thick bark is the source of cork for wine bottles etc.

Map: 1 in Lawn e



16. *Q. canariensis* hybrid

A hybrid oak of unknown origin, possibly crossed with *Quercus bicolor*.

18–24m tall with broad ovoid leaves, with deep indentation

Map: Lawn I



Quercus

Oaks in the Colac Botanic Gardens