

Quercus palustris

(Pin Oak or Swamp Oak)



Quercus palustris is a medium sized, deciduous tree, ideal for parklands, large gardens or avenues. Native to North America, it was introduced to Great Britain in the early 1800s.

With a broadly pyramidal crown, this tree grows to around 20m in height - one tree in Hyde Park was recorded as reaching 28m. As it matures, the lower branches begin to droop.

Its most notable features is the unusual foliage which is deeply cut with pointed lobes. In the autumn it turns to fiery russets, reds and oranges.

Quercus palustris adapts to a wide range of soil conditions though will struggle on soils with a high pH. It can cope with moderate drought, urban pollution and has a good tolerance for exposed sites.

Plant Profile

Name: *Quercus palustris*

Common Name: Pin Oak or Swamp Oak

Family: Fagaceae

Height: approx. 20m

Demands: Best on a moist, well drained, acidic soil in full sun

Foliage: Deeply lobed. Bright green in spring and brilliant red and orange in autumn.

Bark: Grey-brown. Smooth in younger trees developing shallow furrows with maturity

Flowers: Male catkins and insignificant female flowers in spring

Fruit: Almost round acorns though not prolific



Quercus palustris 50-60cm girth in spring

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Deepdale
 'Pin Oak Flats' - large areas of almost solely *Quercus palustris* grow on the glacial plains in some areas of North America.
 Native American tribes used the bark of *Quercus palustris* to make a drink which alleviated intestinal pain.

Deepdale
 The name 'pin oak' may be from the historical use of this hardwood to make pins for use in construction of wooden buildings.



Pointed, lobed leaves



Shallow ridged bark



Rounded acorns



16-18cm girth standards



100-120 cm girth, field grown standards



30-35cm girth standards