

Quercus pontica

Armenian Oak or Pontine Oak



August 2014

Quercus pontica, 3-3.5m height and spread

Quercus pontica is deciduous tree, growing to 6-8m, which makes an outstanding specimen plant. It occurs naturally as a large, rounded shrub or short trunked tree but is also grown in a cultivated state as a single stemmed ornamental standard. It is native to a small area of the Caucasus mountains in western Georgia, north-east Turkey and Armenia.

The attractive leaves of Pontine Oak are large, growing up to 20cm long. They are ovate with a serrated margin, darkish green with a bluish underside. In Autumn they change to brilliant yellow and coppery brown.

In Spring, long golden catkins (the male flowers) hang in pendulous clusters as the foliage is beginning to emerge. The fruit is a large acorn, also produced in clusters, ripening in the Autumn.

The bark of *Quercus pontica* is attractive, yellowish green on young growth and becoming rough and irregularly fissured as it matures.

Plant Profile

Name: *Quercus pontica*

Common Name: Armenian Oak or Pontine Oak

Family: Fagaceae

Height: 6-8m height, 4-6m spread, slow growing

Demands: Prefers an alkaline, well drained soil. Does not tolerate wetness.

Foliage: Large foliage with a serrated edge. Similar to Sweet Chestnut in appearance

Flower: Yellow pendulous male catkins in spring. Female flowers insignificant

Bark: Yellowish on young stems becoming grey-brown and fissured with age


Fruit: Large acorns in clusters ripen in Autumn



Mature bark of Pontine Oak

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 Deepdale
The name *Quercus pontica* come from the Latin *pontic* meaning 'of' or relating to the historical Pontus region of Asia Minor'



Male catkins in spring



Large leathery foliage of Armenian Oak



Acorn clusters grow large by autumn



Quercus pontica 2-2.5m multistem



Autumn foliage of Armenian / Pontine Oak