

Oak

(Quercus robur)

The ruling majesty of the woods, the wise old oak holds a special place in our culture, history, and hearts. It supports more life than any other native tree species in this part of the world; even its fallen leaves support biodiversity.

QUICK FACTS

Irish Oak species

Growing to heights of up to 40m and with a possible lifespan of over 1,000 years, **oak** trees are one of the largest and longest living broadleaf **tree** species in Ireland. Two species of **oak** are found in the country, the Sessile **Oak** (*Quercus petraea*) and the Pedunculate **Oak** (*Quercus robur*).

Value to wildlife

Oak forests support more life forms than any other native forest. They are host to hundreds of insect species, supplying many birds with an important food source. In autumn, mammals such as squirrels, badgers and deer feed on acorns.

Timber

Oaks produce one of the hardest and most durable timbers on the planet. However, it takes up to 150 years before an oak is ready to use in construction. It has been a prized hardwood timber for thousands of years and is still used for flooring, wine barrels and firewood.

Symbolism of the Mighty Oak

The **Oak tree is** one of the most loved trees in the world, and with good reason. It's a **symbol** of strength, morale, resistance and knowledge.