

TURKEY OAK *Quercus cerris*

Belongs to the Beech family.

Thought to be native to the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey, Anatolia etc. Though it is so widely planted now that it is difficult to tell. Came to Britain in 18th Century.

The tree harbours a parasitic wasp which destroys the acorns of other oaks, and therefore prevents the growth of new oaks.

Average height 16-30 metres.

Grown as shelterbelts and avenues because it grows quickly.

Its timber is very poor and not much used.

Deciduous.

Bark is greyish and broken into squarish plates with deep fissures. Twigs are straight and hairy, and the green acorn looks mossy. Acorns very small and are eaten by small game birds and small animals. These acorns take two years to mature.

In America called turkey oak because the three lobed leaves look like a turkey's foot! Might also be of course because it is thought to come from Turkey.

NOTES JANE MONRO NOV 2011