

THE MIGHTY OAK TREE by Dave and Gill Shearing

The Oak tree is one of the largest and longest lived trees found in Britain. They have been known to live for over 1,000 years.

There are 5 main species of Oak found commonly in the UK.

1. **English Oak** (*Quercus robur*).

Also known as Common or Pedunculate Oak. Native. Grows to 40 metres in height. Traditionally used in ship building. HMS Victory (Nelson's flagship at the battle of Trafalgar) was built in 1759, and 6000 mature Oak trees were used in the construction.



2. **Sessile Oak** (*Quercus petrae*).

Native. Also grows up to 40 metres in height.

3. **Holm Oak** (*Quercus ilex*).

Introduced. Grows up to 20 metres in height. The Romans used the wood for making chariot and cart wheels.

4. **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*).

Introduced. Grows up to 20 metres in height. Extremely hard wood which makes it hard to cut up for firewood, even with a chainsaw.

5. **Turkey Oak** (*Quercus cerris*).

Introduced. Grows up to 30 metres in height.



All Oak trees reproduce by producing a nut, which is better known as an Acorn. These are a particular favourite of Grey Squirrels and Jays who will collect large numbers of Acorns in the Autumn and bury them in various places as a food store for the Winter.

