

# Quercus canariensis

(Algerian Oak)



Above: Algerian Oak in Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne.



## Notes

A handsome moderate to large sized broad-domed tree, that can adapt to a range of growing conditions. with high tolerance of drought. Fast growing and long-lived.

Above: Detail of large leaves

<b>Origin</b>	East and South Spain; Algeria, Morocco (in mountains); Tunisia; Portugal; between 700-1000m. Despite the scientific name, it does not occur naturally today in the Canary Islands, though it may have in the past.
<b>Habit</b>	Medium to large sized evergreen (in Melbourne) semi-deciduous (in cooler climates) tree. Wide spreading, broad domed canopy. Moderate to fast growth rate, mature size ranges between 20-30m high x 20-30m wide on a short stout trunk, 1 to 1.5m in diameter.
<b>Description</b>	Algerian Oak can be variable as it hybridises freely with <i>Q. robur</i> . Leaves simple, large, dull dark green, hairless above; glaucous beneath with hairs along midrib; with 6-14 pairs of shallow, toothed lobes, turning yellow to brown in autumn. Acorns approximately 2.5cm long on short stalk in clusters of 2-3. The bark is deeply fissured, blackish to dark greyish brown.
<b>Tolerances</b>	Adapts to most soils, even heavy clays; grows in soils ranging from a pH of 4.5 (extremely acidic ranges from 0 to 5.1) to 7.5 (neutral ranges from 6.6 to 7.5). It is adapted to calcareous, clay, clay loam, sandy clay loam and sandy loam soils, and prefers medium fertility. Tree can withstand periods of drought. Can be subject to oak leaf miner, aphid and leafhopper attack, leading to sooty mould.
<b>Root space</b>	Based on mature size, the tree would require approximately 452 to 705m <sup>2</sup> area or 270 to 425m <sup>3</sup> root volume (crown projection method).
<b>Availability</b>	Occasional from advanced tree nurseries.
<b>Uses &amp; management</b>	One of the best exotic trees to grow in dry climates on a range of soil types. Great shade tree. Only limited in its use by its ultimate size. Suits parks, larger urban gardens and streets. Long-lived tree with good tolerances, particularly drought and clay soils, suggest that this oak should be more widely used in urban landscapes. Easy to transplant.

## Reference

Spencer, R., (1997), Horticultural flora of south-eastern Australia, University of New South Wales Press LTD, Australia.

Oaks of the World. (2014) 'Quercus canariensis'. Available at: [http://oaks.of.the.world.free.fr/quercus\\_canariensis.htm](http://oaks.of.the.world.free.fr/quercus_canariensis.htm)

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