

My bark is dark grey, maturing with various plates and deep fissures. On older trees, the trunk fissures are often streaked with orange near the base.



My wood is not particularly strong so is not often used as building material.

My flowers appear on dangly catkins between April and May and are pollinated by wind.



Who Am I?



My fruits are acorns. They are orange at the base, graduating to a green-brown tip, with a 'hairy' acorn 'cup', which looks like a hat made of moss.



Does this give you another clue as to which family I belong?

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I am a deciduous tree and can grow to 30m. Although I did not originate in the UK and was introduced to Britain as an ornamental tree in the 18th century, I am related to a very popular British tree family, many examples of which you can see around me.

My leaves are dark green and variable in shape, their lobes deeply cut with short points at the tips.

To touch they are rough and thick, shiny above but felted underneath. Of which other tree do these leaves remind you?

