PLANT FACT SHEET

Quercus ilex L.

GENUS *Quercus* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Holm oak, Evergreen oak, Holly Oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts, Acorn

The acorns can be roasted and eaten or dried and ground into flour for baking.
The nuts yield an edible oil.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows to 20-25 m tall and spreads 18-22 m wide. It has a dense rounded crown. It is evergreen. The leaves are alternate. The younger leaves are broad and spiny and older leaves are narrow and do not have teeth. The leaves are glossy and dark green but grey underneath. The male flowers are long and yellow catkins. The acorns are round and small. They can be produced singly or in clusters. They are 2/3 rds enclosed in a scaly cup. The acorns are edible.

HABITAT

It grows in Mediterranean climates. It can tolerate salt laden winds. It can grow in poor soils. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Temperate. Hobart Botanical Gardens. Kyneton Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 7-11. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. These should preferably be planted where they are to grow. They can also be grown from root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It produces acorns in 5-10 years.

NOTES

There are about 600 Quercus species.

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