

Turkey oak

The Turkey Oak is a tree that was introduced into the United Kingdom in the 1700s from south-east Europe and Asia. It was originally introduced into the country as an ornamental tree due to the deciduous leaves that grow on it; however, they are now more well-known due to the gall wasps that lay their larvae in the trees which is harmful to our native British oak trees. Due to its reputation, it isn't widely planted but you can still find them on your walks around Malvern.

Appearance

The Turkey oak has a grey bark which often becomes distinguishable by orange streaks which become more visible as the tree ages. The leaves vary in shapes – some pointed and some rounded – which makes the tree fascinating to



investigate. The leaves are textured – rough and thick with a shine on top and felt underneath. The large acorns take 18 months to mature after pollination and they are distinct – orange at the base with a green-brown tip and a hairy acorn cup.

Wildlife

Even though it has an adverse effect on British oak trees, its flowers are a fantastic source of pollen; the acorns can be eaten by birds and mammals and they make a great nesting place for birds.

Uses:

- Wood panelling.
- Firewood

Why I chose this tree?

I chose this tree as Oak class is the final class that I will be in at my primary school so that is very special to me as I have attended this school for a long time. I chose the Turkey oak because it is a tree that I see often on my bike rides and I love finding the distinctive acorns because I think they look like they have hats on, which makes them different to the native acorns.

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