### Quercus petraea 'Mespilifolia'

#### Description

- **Height**: 16 - 20 m
- **Crown**: round, half-open crown
- **Bark and branches**: greyish-brown, remains smooth for a long time
- **Leaf**: narrow lanceolate, unlobed, green, 8 - 18 cm
- **Flowers**: yellowish-brown catkins, 5 - 8 cm long, May
- **Fruits**: ovoid acorns, 2 - 2.5 cm, in groups of several together
- **Spines/thorns**: None
- **Toxicity**: usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
- **Soil type**: nutritious, can take dry conditions
- **Soil moisture**: suitable for dry soil
- **Paving**: tolerates no paving
- **Winter hardiness zone**: 5a (-28.8 to -26.1 °C)
- **Wind resistance**: good
- **Other resistances**: resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, resistant to de-icing salt
- **Application**: avenues and broad streets, industrial areas
- **Shape**: clearstem tree, multi-stem tree
- **Origin**: France, 1843

#### Additional Information

One of the best known winter oak cultivars. The crown is broad and loose and the branches droop somewhat. Only old trees develop shallow grooves in the bark. Young twigs are greenish-brown. The leaves emerge 2 weeks later than those of Q. robur: they are yellowish-green, narrow lanceolate to narrow elongated. A remarkable difference with the species is that the tough leathery leaves are unlobed, especially the first growth in spring. The leaves that emerge second show more resemblance to those of the species. The leaf edge is smooth and slightly undulating. The ovoid stalkless acorns are grouped together and are one-third to one-quarter enclosed in the cupule: the latter is covered with small contiguous scales. The tree also grows in dry soil provided that it is not too poor.