Quercus palustris is a medium sized, deciduous tree, ideal for parklands, large gardens or avenues. Native to North America, it was introduced to Great Britain in the early 1800s.

With a broadly pyramidal crown, this tree grows to around 20m in height - one tree in Hyde Park was recorded as reaching 28m. As it matures, the lower branches begin to droop.

Its most notable features is the unusual foliage which is deeply cut with pointed lobes. In the autumn it turns to fiery russets, reds and oranges.

Quercus palustris adapts to a wide range of soil conditions though will struggle on soils with a high pH. It can cope with moderate drought, urban pollution and has a good tolerance for exposed sites.

**Plant Profile**

**Name:** Quercus palustris  
**Common Name:** Pin Oak or Swamp Oak  
**Family:** Fagaceae  
**Height:** approx. 20m  
**Demands:** Best on a moist, well drained, acidic soil in full sun  
**Foliage:** Deeply lobed. Bright green in spring and brilliant red and orange in autumn.  
**Bark:** Grey-brown. Smooth in younger trees developing shallows furrows with maturity  
**Flowers:** Male catkins and insignificant female flowers in spring  
**Fruit:** Almost round acorns though not prolific
Quercus palustris
(Pin Oak or Swamp Oak)

The name 'pin oak' may be from the historical use of this hardwood to make pins for use in construction of wooden buildings.

Native American tribes used the bark of Quercus palustris to make a drink which alleviated intestinal pain.

Pin Oak Flats - large areas of almost solely Quercus palustris grow on the glacial plains in some areas of North America.

16-18cm girth standards
Pointed, lobed leaves

100-120 cm girth, field grown standards
Shallow ridged bark

30-35cm girth standards
Rounded acorns

16-18cm girth standards

30-35cm girth standards