

Northeast Asia, Central and Southwest China, Himalayas





Meeting With Oaks

Philippe de Spoelberch
Arboretum Wespelaar
Herkenrode
Vijverbos 6
B-3150 Wespelaar, Belgium

ABSTRACT

Having traveled extensively through the temperate regions of the world, over the last 40 years, I have come to meet oaks from time to time. This has given me the occasion to exercise my hobby of plant photographer. But I must admit that my main interest has been for other genera such as *Acer*, *Rhododendron*, *Betula* and *Magnolia*. But oaks were always present. This portrait gallery of oaks as seen in the wild and botanic gardens is a grand tour of the world, going from Eastern North America all the way back to Western Europe. Not a particularly useful way to go about this visit, but one which might allow me to point out some of the diverse conditions in 7 different regions. Eastern and Central USA provide most of the portraits for that continent. Western North America adds a few important plants that might have been shown in the Mediterranean section. The red oaks are of course singled out. Landing on the Eastern coast of Asia provides another show of colors with deciduous members of the genus turning to bright autumn colors (another main interest of mine). Moving to Central and Southwest China toward the border with the Himalayas provides only a few portraits – this being the result of the limited number of plants in the temperate areas of these regions. Plants from the Caucasus and Balkans are among the favorites of West European gardens. Western Europe has but half a dozen indigenous oaks merging with Mediterranean oaks, themselves very linked to the previous group. All are reasonably hardy and happy in botanical gardens and in particular at Arboretum Wespelaar where about 100 species and cultivars can be found.

Keywords: oak images, *Quercus* images, Arboretum Wespelaar

United States of America



Europe





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- 1/ *Q. acutissima* Carruth. Arboretum Robert Lenoir, Rendeux, Belgium (2008).
- 2/ *Q. pannosa* Hand.-Mazz. Bamashan on the Sichuan-Yunnan border, China (2008).
- 3/ *Q. crispula* var. *horikawae* H. Ohba. Mount Zao, Honshu, Japan (2008).
- 4/ *Q. crispula* Blume. Norikura Mountain, Japan (2008).
- 5/ *Q. dentata* Thunb. 'Carl Ferris Miller' J. Hillier & Coombes. Arboretum Wespelaar, Haacht-Wespelaar, Belgium (2010).
- 6/ *Q. monimotricha* (Hand.-Mazz.) Hand.-Mazz. Yuhu, Lijiang, Yunnan, China (2008).

United States of America

- 7/ *Q. bicolor* Willd. Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, USA (2011).
- 8/ *Q. palustris* L. Arboretum Wespelaar, Haacht-Wespelaar, Belgium (2011).
- 9/ *Q. ×brittonii* W.T. Davis (*Q. ilicifolia* × *Q. marilandica*). New Jersey Pine Barrens, USA.
- 10/ *Q. chrysolepis* Liebm. Yosemite National Park, California, USA (2010).
- 11/ *Q. vacciniifolia* Kellogg. Tenaya Lake, Yosemite National Park, California, USA (2010).

Europe

- 12/ *Q. 'Pondaim'* van Hoey Smith (*Q. dentata* Thunb. × *Q. pontica* K. Koch). Arboretum Wespelaar, Haacht-Wespelaar, Belgium (2007).
- 13/ *Q. frainetto* Ten. Arboretum Wespelaar, Haacht-Wespelaar, Belgium (2007).
- 14/ *Q. pubescens* Willd. La Sainte-Baume, France (2011).
- 15/ *Q. robur* L. Domaine Empain, Espeux, Belgium (1994).
- 16/ *Q. suber* L. La Garde-Freinet, France (2012).
- 17/ *Q. canariensis* Willd. Arboretum de Gratteloup, La Môle, France (2012).

To view the entire presentation of 241 photographs, see the IOS home page at <http://www.internationaloaksociety.org>

Photographers. Title page: Philippe de Spoelberch (*Q. rubra* 'Aurea', Arboretum Wespelaar). Photos 1-17: Philippe de Spoelberch.