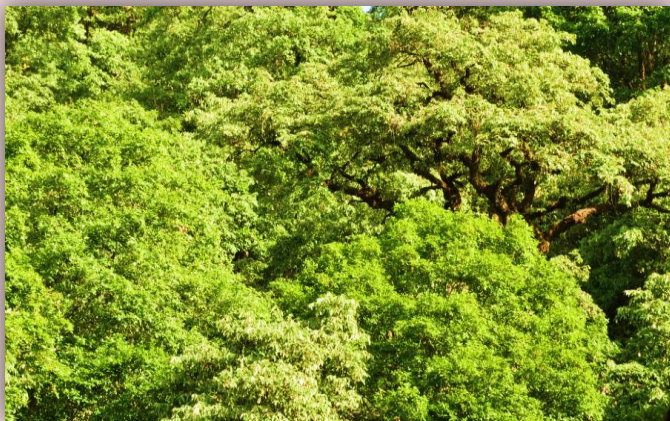


OAK

The oak tree belongs to the *Quercus* genus of the beech family. There are approximately 600 species of oaks. They are generally found in the Northern hemisphere. 78 species of oaks are registered as endangered due to habitat destruction and other natural causes. Oak trees are normally huge in structure. Because of its substantial size, oak requires extensive amounts of water every day. It can absorb up to 50 gallons of water daily. Acorns, the fruits of the oak tree, are produced from 20 years to 50 years of age. The wood of oak is exceptionally sturdy and hard. It is utilized as a part of the production of boats, furniture, floor materials etc.



OAK : THE WONDER TREE

Quercus leucotricophora is a tree belonging to Family Fagaceae commonly known as **Banj**. It is an evergreen tree bearing stalked, ovate to lanceolate, acuminate, serrate, leathery and dark green leaves which are glabrous above and densely white or grey pubescent beneath.

It naturally occurs at 1500-2700 m in forested areas in association with *Rhododendron arboreum*.

The Banj oak is among the most useful trees of the Himalaya. It is extensively lopped for fuel wood and its wood has a high caloric value and good burning properties. The leaves are extensively used as cattle fodder. Leaf litter is rich in nitrogen and makes an excellent compost fertilizer. The timber while hard and strong, and used for agriculture implements is not particularly valuable as it is hard to work.



Quercus floribanda is a tree belonging to Family Fagaceae commonly known as **Moru**. *Q. dilatata* is a large shade-enduring tree, almost evergreen, bark dark-grey or black. Leaves elliptic-ovate to broadly lance-shaped, leathery, entire to spiny toothed, pointed or blunt. Naturally occurs at 1600-2900 m. It is used for building, for agricultural implements, construction and similar other purposes. The leaves are lopped for fodder.



SOMEONE'S SITTING IN THE SHADE TODAY BECAUSE SOMEONE PLANTED A TREE A LONG TIME AGO