

## The Daimio Oak

*Quercus Dentata*

ROSS GOODRICH

The Daimio oak, as represented by a specimen at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, is a beautiful and interesting tree, though its appeal may be limited for use in this area.

It gets some notice because it stands almost by itself on the bank of the upper lagoon, some because oaks are generally attractive, but most because its leaves are so big. They have been large since the tree was planted in 1953.

Though this Daimio (or Daymio) oak, *Quercus dentata*, is known for having the largest leaves of any oak, it was still a surprise to see a spindly little framework of branches hold such big leaves. Their color is the light green usually associated with the first burst of spring growth, and they have stayed the same until late in the summer with only a little darkening. Most of them have burned at the edges during the hot weather, our climate being too dry for such lush growth or possibly the soil is unfavorable, and one year the leaves stunted when the largest were scarcely a foot long.

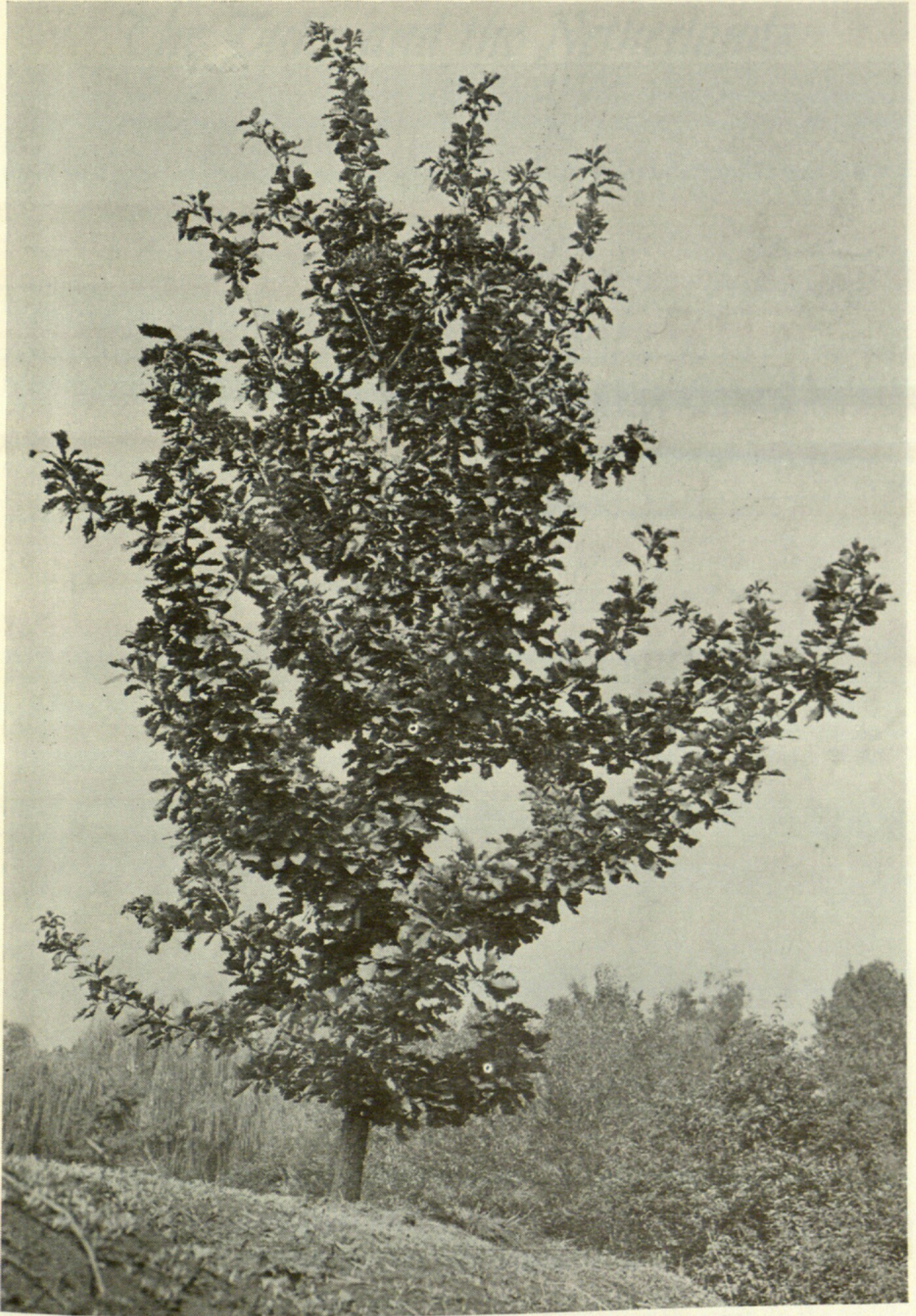
A couple of years there has been a touch of red in the leaves towards autumn, but for the most part they have just turned a tobacco brown and hung on and on. For a few weeks this can be attractive, especially with the sun behind them, or towards sunset when they pick up an orange colored glow. But for most of us by this time it is like waiting for the other shoe to fall, and it would be nice to have them drop and get it over with.

In Asia its native distribution is from Manchuria and Mongolia through the central provinces of China to Yunnan. It is grown in Japan as an ornamental, as a silkworm tree, and its bark is used there for tanning. Aside from this the outside world has planted it sparingly. A few specimens are in scattered locations, mainly botanic gardens and arboreta in Europe and America.

*Arboretum Gardener*

*Asiatic-Pacific Section*





*Quercus dentata*, summer aspect. The tree was planted in the Asiatic-Pacific Section in 1953.  
Photo: Denis Kucera





*Quercus dentata*, winter aspect.

Photo: L. B. Martin





Goodrich, Ross. 1963. "The Daimio oak: *Quercus dentata*." *Lasca leaves* 13(Spring 1963), 32–34.

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