



Seeking Acorns and Seeds We Need Your Help!



Acorn and Seed Collection Procedures

Forestry Topic FT0011

www.dof.virginia.gov

August 2011

The Virginia Department of Forestry needs your help to continue producing quality seedlings for Virginia landowners. Virginia-grown seed generally produces trees that will grow well in our state. Every year, homeowners from all over the state donate acorns and other seed to help us produce the next season's crop. Seed collection is a great activity for children and adults! It also allows individuals to learn more about Virginia trees. Every year, homeowners spend countless hours raking up acorns and wonder what to do with them. We have the answer... donate your acorns to the Virginia Department of Forestry!



Species Needed

The species shown below should be easy to find around your yard or other urban areas and are easy to collect.

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Pin Oak | 7. Sawtooth Oak |
| 2. White Oak | 8. Hazelnut |
| 3. Northern Red Oak | 9. Alleghany Chinkapin |
| 4. Willow Oak | 10. Black Walnut |
| 5. Chestnut Oak | 11. Chinese Chestnut |
| 6. Black Oak | |

* For updated species needed, visit www.dof.virginia.gov.

How and When to Collect

The best time for seed collection is during the months of September and October in most areas of the state. You should try to stay away from trees in the forest. Oftentimes, it is hard to identify where the seed came from if there are many different species of trees nearby. Look for healthy trees; avoid trees that have bulges or insect infestation, or appear diseased or strangely deformed. If you would like to participate in seed collection, please use the following guidelines.

1. Make sure the tree is correctly identified.
2. Try to keep as much trash (sticks, leaves, gravel, etc.) out as possible.
3. It doesn't matter if acorns still have the caps on them or not.
4. Place the seed in a breathable sack or bag, such as a burlap or paper bag. (No Plastic Bags, Please!)
5. One type of seed should not be mixed with another. (For example: white oak acorns should be in one bag and red oak acorns should be in another.)
6. Make sure each bag of seed is labeled with the species, source location and date. If you are uncertain of the species, include one leaf and stem in the bag to help the nursery staff identify the seed.
7. Once the seed is collected, place in a cool area. Seed will spoil if it is overheated. Do not allow seed to dry out for an extended period (more than 10 days or so).
8. Bring the seed to your local forestry office or the Augusta Forestry Center within seven to 10 days.

Augusta Forestry Center

90 Forestry Center Lane, Crimora, VA 24431

Find your local forestry office on our Website

www.dof.virginia.gov

For More Information

If there are any questions or if you have a tree that needs to be identified, please contact your local forester or the Augusta Forestry Center at (540) 363-7000.



**Virginia Department of Forestry
Augusta Forestry Center**
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