



Seeking Acorns and Nuts to Grow Seedlings

We Need Your Help

Forestry Topic 11

September 2023

Acorn and Nut Collection

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) needs your help to continue producing quality seedlings for Virginia landowners. Collect and donate acorns and nuts to DOF this fall.

DOF grows more than a dozen species of hardwood seedlings at the Augusta Nursery. The seedlings produced are sold to landowners, typically to reforest open lands. Growing the forests of tomorrow begins with seed. Virginia-grown seed generally produces trees that thrive best in our state's climate. Acorn and nut collection is a great activity for both children and adults and provides an opportunity to learn more about Virginia trees.



Species Needed

1. Black Oak *
2. Black Walnut
3. Chestnut Oak *
4. Chinese Chestnut
5. Northern Red Oak
6. Pin Oak
7. Shumard Oak
8. Southern Red Oak
9. Swamp Chestnut Oak
10. Swamp White Oak
11. Water Oak
12. White Oak *
13. Willow Oak

* These species are especially in need.

Get help identifying acorns and nuts with our [Acorn and Nut Identification Guide](#).

How and When to Collect

The best time for seed collection is during September and October in most areas of the state. Try to stay away from trees in the forest. It's often difficult 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'd like to participate in seed collection, use the following guidelines:

1. Make sure the tree is correctly identified.
2. Minimize debris (e.g., sticks, leaves, gravel, trash) in the collection bag.
3. Store the acorns or nuts in a bag made of breathable material (e.g., burlap or paper). **No plastic bags, please!**
4. Make sure each bag of acorns or nuts is labeled with the species, source location and date. Do not mix acorns or nuts from different species in the same bag.
5. Store collected acorns or nuts in a cool area (not a freezer) for no more than 10 days before delivering to a DOF office. If necessary, acorns and nuts may be placed in a refrigerator for a short period of time.
6. Bring the acorns or nuts to the Augusta Nursery or your local DOF office **within 7 to 10 days**.

For questions or help with identification, contact your local forester or the Augusta Nursery:

Augusta Nursery

90 Forestry Center Lane, Crimora, VA 24431
(540) 363-7000; Nursery@DOF.Virginia.gov

Find your local DOF office:

www.dof.virginia.gov

For more information about services or programs in your area, contact your local DOF office:

www.DOF.Virginia.gov



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