



Seeking Acorns and Seeds – We Need Your Help!



Acorn and Seed Collection Procedures

Forestry Topic FT0011

www.dof.virginia.gov

September 2020

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) needs your help to continue producing quality seedlings for Virginia landowners. Collect and donate acorns to VDOF this fall! VDOF grows more than a dozen species of hardwood seedlings at the Augusta Forestry Center. The seedlings produced are sold to Virginia landowners, typically to reforest open lands. The work of growing the forests of tomorrow begins with seeds. Virginia-grown seed generally produces trees that will best thrive in our state's climates. Each year, homeowners collect acorns and nuts from all across the state and donate them to the Forestry Center. Acorn collection is a great activity for both children and adults, and it provides an opportunity to learn more about Virginia trees.



1. Make sure the tree is correctly identified.
2. Minimize debris (e.g. sticks, leaves, gravel, trash) in the collection bag.
3. Store the nuts in a bag made of breathable material, such as burlap or paper. No plastic bags, please!
4. Make sure each bag of seed is labeled with the species, source location and date. Do not mix nuts from different species in the same bag.
5. Store collected nuts in a cool area (not a freezer) for no more than 10 days before delivering to a VDOF office. If necessary, nuts may be placed in a refrigerator for a short period of time.
6. 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 VDOF's website:
www.dof.virginia.gov

Species Needed

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Black Oak | 7. Pin Oak |
| 2. Black Walnut | 8. Southern Red Oak |
| 3. Chinese Chestnut | 9. Swamp Chestnut Oak |
| 4. Chestnut Oak | 10. Swamp White Oak |
| 5. Live Oak | 11. White Oak |
| 6. Northern Red Oak | 12. Willow 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. 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.

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.



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Crimora, Virginia 24431
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