



Acorn and Nut Identification Guide

Forestry Topic 60

September 2023

Alleghany Chinkapin

(*Castanea pumila*)



Shiny brown, egg-shaped nut, singly enclosed in a spiny bur $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. across; matures first year, September to November *

Black Oak

(*Quercus velutina*)



Oval acorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. across, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ covered by a bowl-shaped cap with slightly loose edges; matures second year, August to October *

Black Walnut

(*Juglans nigra*)



Round, furrowed nut, enclosed in a 2- to $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. round, thick green husk that does not split; matures first year, September to October

Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus prinus*)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ covered with a thin, bumpy cap shaped like a teacup; matures first year, September to October

Chinese Chestnut

(*Castanea mollissima*)



Shiny brown nut, 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. across, somewhat flattened on 1 or 2 sides; enclosed in a spiny bur 2 to 3 in. across, with 2 to 3 nuts per bur; matures first year, September *

Hazelnut

(*Corylus americana*)



Round nut, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. across, enclosed in a hairy, leaf-like husk with ragged edges; matures first year, September to early October *

Live Oak

(*Quercus virginiana*)



Elliptical acorn, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, $\frac{1}{3}$ covered by a bumpy, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, early September to October *

Northern Red Oak

(*Quercus rubra*)



Broadly oval acorn, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, with a flat cap resembling a beret; matures second year, September to October *

Overcup Oak

(*Quercus lyrata*)



Nearly round acorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in. across, almost totally enclosed by a rounded, bumpy cap; matures first year, September to October *

Pin Oak

(*Quercus palustris*)



Nearly round acorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. across, often striped, with a thin, saucer-like cap; matures second year, September to November *

Sawtooth Oak

(*Quercus acutissima*)



Oval acorn, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 in. long, almost $\frac{3}{4}$ covered by a cap with long, fringe-like scales resembling hair; matures second year, September *

Scarlet Oak

(*Quercus coccinea*)



Oval acorn $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in. across, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ covered by a shiny, bowl-shaped cap; acorn tip may be ringed with circles resembling a target; matures second year, September to October *

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Shumard Oak

(*Quercus shumardii*)



Oval acorn, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, less than $\frac{1}{3}$ covered by a shallow, bowl-shaped cap; matures second year, September to October**

Southern Red Oak

(*Quercus falcata*)



Oval to round acorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. across, $\frac{1}{3}$ or more covered by cap tapering to broad, stalk-like base; matures second year, September to October *

Swamp Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus michauxii*)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, $\frac{1}{3}$ or more covered by a thick, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, September to October

Swamp White Oak

(*Quercus bicolor*)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 in. long, on a long stalk, about $\frac{1}{3}$ covered by a bowl-shaped cap; matures second year, September to October *

Water Oak

(*Quercus nigra*)



Nearly round acorn, $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. across, about $\frac{1}{3}$ covered by a shallow, saucer-shaped cap; matures second year, August to October *

White Oak

(*Quercus alba*)



Egg-shaped acorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, about $\frac{1}{4}$ covered by a bumpy, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, September to October *

Willow Oak

(*Quercus phellos*)



Nearly round acorn, $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across, with a shallow, saucer-shaped cap; matures second year, August to October

*Photo courtesy of the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment.

**Photo courtesy of Mike Ortmeier.

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

www.DOF.Virginia.gov



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