

Acorn and Nut Identification Guide

Forestry Topic 60 September 2023

Alleghany Chinkapin

(Castanea pumila)



Shiny brown, eggshaped nut, singly enclosed in a spiny bur ¾ to 1½ in. across; matures first year, September to November *

Black Oak (Quercus velutina)



Oval acorn, ½ to ¾ in. across, nearly ½ 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 2½-in. round, thick green husk that does not split; matures first year, September to October

Chestnut Oak (Quercus prinus)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 to 1½ in. long, ½ to ½ covered with a thin, bumpy cap shaped like a teacup; matures first year, September to October

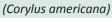
Chinese Chestnut

(Castanea mollissima)



Shiny brown nut, 1 to 1¼ 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





Round nut, ½ 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, ¾ in. long, ⅓ covered by a bumpy, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, early September to October *

Northern Red Oak

(Quercus rubra)



Broadly oval acorn, % to 1% in. long, with a flat cap resembling a beret; matures second year, September to October *

Overcup Oak (Quercus lyrata)



Nearly round acorn, ½ 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, ½ in. across, often striped, with a thin, saucer-like cap; matures second year, September to November *

Sawtooth Oak

(Quercus acutissima)



Oval acorn, % to 1 in. long, almost % covered by a cap with long, fringe-like scales resembling hair; matures second year, September *

Scarlet Oak
(Quercus coccinea)



Oval acorn ½ to 1 in. across, ½ to ½ covered by a shiny, bowl-shaped cap; acorn tip may be ringed with circles resembling a target; matures second year, September to October *

Forestry Topic 60 September 2023

Shumard Oak

(Quercus shumardii)



Oval acorn, ¾ to 1¼ in. long, less than ⅓ covered by a shallow, bowl-shaped cap; matures second year, September to October**

Swamp White Oak

(Quercus bicolor)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 in. long, on a long stalk, about ½ covered by a bowl-shaped cap; matures second year, September to October *

Willow Oak (Quercus phellos)



Nearly round acorn, % to % inch across, with a shallow, saucer-shaped cap; matures second year, August to October

Southern Red Oak

(Quercus falcata)



Oval to round acorn, ½ to ¾ in. across, ¼ or more covered by cap tapering to broad, stalk-like base; matures second year, September to October *

Water Oak (Quercus nigra)



Nearly round acorn, % to % in. across, about % covered by a shallow, saucershaped cap; matures second year, August to October *

Swamp Chestnut Oak

(Quercus michauxii)



Egg-shaped acorn, 1 to 1¼ in. long, ⅓ or more covered by a thick, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, September to October

White Oak (Quercus alba)



Egg-shaped acorn, ½ to 1¼ inches long, about ¼ covered by a bumpy, bowl-shaped cap; matures first year, September to October *

Resources and Environment.

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

www.DOF.Virginia.gov



Virginia Department of Forestry 900 Natural Resources Dr., Suite 800

Charlottesville, VA 22903 Phone: (434) 977-6555; VDOF@DOF.Virginia.gov

FT0060; 09/2023

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

^{*}Photo courtesy of the Virginia Tech College of Natural

^{**}Photo courtesy of Mike Ortmeier.