

White Oak

Quercus alba L.



The white oak, *Quercus alba*, is native to eastern North America. The scientific name, *alba*, means “white.” This oak is in the white oak subgenus, *Quercus* (or *Leucoobalanus*). This species grows to be a very large tree, with a trunk up to nine feet in diameter, and may live to 500 to 800 years of age. This tree is very tolerant of soil types and pH. It is excellent for planting near buildings because of the strength of its wood. A properly-maintained white oak will never drop branches except under the most extreme of storm conditions (extreme hurricanes or tornadoes).

Cultivation

Plant these acorns as soon as you receive them! Normal winter stratification of the acorns is all that is necessary. This can easily be accomplished by planting the seed in fall or early winter, preferably under two or more inches of humus. Alternatively, this can be accomplished by embedding the acorns in a planting mix and storing in the freezer for ten days, then the refrigerator for another sixty days. This species roots immediately on contacting moist earth in the fall, but the tops do not emerge until the spring.

Note

Many acorns are subject to one or another species of acorn weevil, mostly in genus *Curculio*. These have legless grubs that resemble maggots. They grow in the acorn from early formation, and then bore a hole to exit after the acorn has dropped from the tree. We try to screen for these and pull infested acorns, but we cannot catch them all. If you find one of these grubs, they are harmless. Simply dispose of it. The acorn is probably still viable.

Conservation Seed
PO Box 1196, Athens, OH 45701
cs@hokhokken.com