



Pin Oak

Quercus palustris Muench.

The pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, is a wetland species of oak with a pyramidal form of growth until older, often with a very straight central trunk. It is one of the shorter-lived of the oaks, generally surviving about a century. It is a member of the red oak subgenus, *Lobatae* (formerly *Erythrobalanus*). It can grow to be a large tree. It tolerates most soils, but prefers a moist, acid soil, and may develop the yellowing of iron chlorosis in basic soils. Because it has a fibrous root system, it is easy to transplant. This is the oak seen so often lining city parkways with stately, tall, straight trunks.

Cultivation

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 seed can be stored in refrigeration for a year, but this is not recommended, and viability will be much lower.

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 destroy it and dispose of it. The acorn is probably still viable.

Conservation Seed

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