

# Shumard Oak

*Quercus shumardii* Buckl.



The Shumard oak is native to southeastern and south-central United States. It is in the red oak subgenus, *Erythrobalanus*, also known as *Lobatae*, and is closely related to the scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea*, and the red oak, *Q. rubra*. The leaves are some of the most elaborate leaves among the oaks. This species has distinctively gray winter buds that distinguish it from other oaks. The Shumard oak often has good fall color. It grows to be a tall tree, and is widely used in landscaping and as a street tree. The wood is similar to that of red oak, and is marketed as red oak.

## **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 dispose of it. The acorn is probably still viable.

## **Conservation Seed**

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