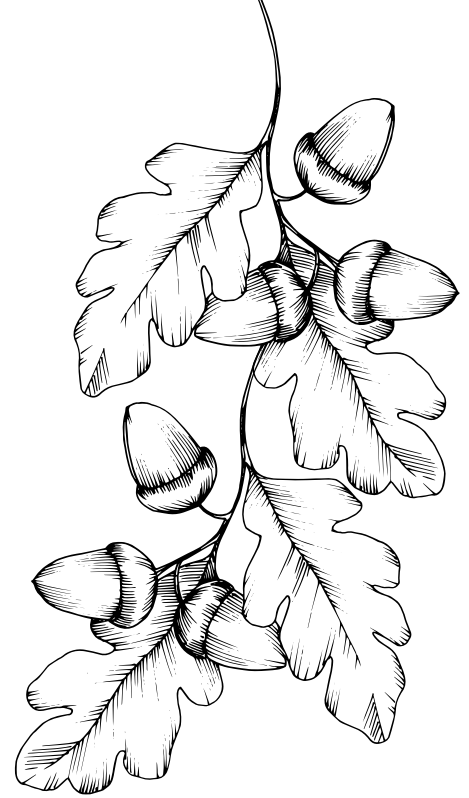


# ECOP'S ACORN PLANTING GUIDE

Planting acorns is a great way to encourage more oaks in your landscape. Acorns can be a more effective option than planting seedlings, as Oregon white oak has a very long tap root and can be difficult to transplant.

## COLLECTION

In late August through September, acorns are ripening and ready to be harvested. You'll know they are ready once they turn yellow to brown and begin to separate from their caps. You can collect acorns from the ground or from the tree. Either way, it's a good idea to check for insect entry holes!



Once you've collected your acorns, float test them to ensure viability. Place them in water for 24 hours. Any that float or are soft are not viable.

## PLANTING

Oregon white oak acorns are ready for planting as soon as they are collected and soaked. The best time to plant oak seedlings is in the fall after rains have moistened the soil but before temperatures begin to warm in early spring.

Now that you've soaked your acorns, you are ready to plant! Prepare your soil by clearing a 6 to 12 inch diameter area of other plant materials. Place multiple acorns about 2 or 3 inches apart to increase the chance of successful germination, but plan to do some follow up thinning if you don't want clumps of oaks where multiple acorns were successful. Place them on their side and cover them with about ½ inch of soil.

You can start your oaks in pots, but be sure to plant them in the ground as soon as possible. Starting them in pots may help prevent rodents from pulling or eating them. However, the long tap root makes transplanting difficult so we recommend planting directly into the soil if possible.

You may want to protect your seedlings for their first few years. They can be caged to prevent foraging by deer. Plastic or wood mulch can also be applied to reduce competition from other plants and to retain moisture during establishment. Installing cages and mats has led to increased predation in some cases by jays and squirrels who learn how to locate acorns using visual cues.

Learn more at [www.ColumbiaLandTrust.org/ECOP](http://www.ColumbiaLandTrust.org/ECOP)

