

TAKING A STAND ON TREE CONSERVATION: A WINDOW INTO ESSENTIAL BIODIVERSITY

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the need to preserve
native White Oaks,
a keystone species and
integral part of critical
ecosystems and biodiversity
vital to our planet's future.*

*It also increases
community awareness about
White Oak-based habitats
and how the home gardener
can incorporate them into
native-based backyards
and community spaces.*

*Green Fingers, founded in 1935, is a group of supportive women
with a common love of gardens, creative design, the environment
and community engagement.*

www.greenfingerswashington.org



*Hypnum curvifolium
Dicranum scoparium
Selaginella kraussiana
Adiantum capillus-veneris
Nephrolepis cordifolia
Helleborus ballardiae
Cornus stolonifera
Ilex verticillata
Kalmia latifolia
Hamamelis virginiana
Narcissus topolino*

*Sheet Moss
Moss Moss
Club Moss
Southern Maiden Hair Fern
Lemon Button Fern
Lenten Rose
Yellow Twig Dogwood
Winterberry
Mountain Laurel
Witch Hazel
Miniature Trumpet Daffodil*

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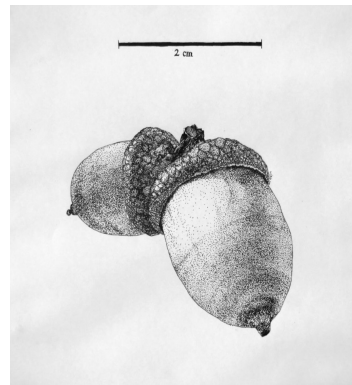
From the Tiny Acorn Grows the Mighty Oak

Connecticut's state tree, the historically significant native white oak (*Quercus alba*) is widespread across eastern North America and is the cornerstone of robust native forest communities.

The white oak is a deciduous, long-lived tree that can grow to 80 feet or taller and has been reported to live for hundreds of years under favorable conditions. Its leaves have rounded lobes and its shiny brown acorns ripen in 4 months and fall off the tree in autumn. Soon after that, the acorns germinate, and another white oak begins to grow.

White oak acorns are sweet-tasting nuts and a high-energy food that are relished by more than 180 species of birds and mammals, including squirrels, chipmunks, mice, deer, bears, raccoons, blue jays, wild turkeys, quail, grouse, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and ducks.

This extraordinary tree supports over 500 species of native caterpillars, an essential protein source that birds feed their young for proper development.



How to Plant a Native White Oak

A native white oak will grow more quickly and be healthier if grown from an acorn rather than a nursery purchased sapling. Collect acorns in the Fall and plant 2-3 inches deep in a deep pot and water as necessary. They will quickly germinate and put down an embryonic root or 'radicle'. Tend to them for one year and protect the seedlings from deer and rodents with a five-inch cage until the saplings outgrow them. When planting the following Fall, keep the soil level below the root-line and do not fertilize. Mulch, but keep material away from the trunk.

Green Fingers Garden Club
Greenwich, Connecticut



The Native
White Oak

Quercus alba

replace with
LOGO
The Native White
Oak
[Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]



Sunlight is the Fuel of Life

The miracle of trees and plants is their ability to capture energy from sunlight and transform it into chemical energy to fuel growth. All life forms depend on the ability of trees and other plants to photosynthesize.

Deciduous forests are especially productive. The leaves of these trees are nature's solar energy system. The leaves intercept sunlight (especially during the long, warm days of spring and summer) to power the photosynthesis process.

Leaves absorb carbon dioxide from the air. During photosynthesis, carbon dioxide and water produce carbohydrates and oxygen. The sugars produced nourish the plant and feed the animal world. The oxygen is released into the

The native white oak is a valuable "keystone species" because it sustains more than 180 species of mammals and birds and over 500 species of native caterpillars, butterflies and other life in our gardens.

Dr. Doug Tallamy
University of Delaware



The Native White Oak

Only a few hundred years ago, the New England landscape was a magnificent tapestry of native plants that included woodlands, meadows, and wetlands. Old reference books considered the white oak as "the most valuable of all Oakwood." Native Americans gathered the white oak acorns to boil and grind into meal for baking bread. European settlers learned that white oak wood was extremely strong, solid, heavy, resistant to decay, and water resistant.

Thus, it was the wood of choice for the building of houses, barns, covered bridges, railroad ties, fences, barrel staves (for whiskey), boats, and ships. In New England, one may occasionally see a solitary majestic white oak in

and feed the animal world. The oxygen is released into the atmosphere.



In New England, one may occasionally see a solitary majestic white oak in former farm fields, left standing after its shade had cooled generations of plowmen, oxen, horse teams, workers, and livestock.

The image of the white oak was used on some of the earliest coins made in North America to symbolize the growth and strength of the new nation.

