

Plant Propagation Protocol for *Quercus garryana*



ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production Spring 2020

Protocol URL: <http://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/QUAGAG2.pdf>



(From https://oregonstate.edu/trees/broadleaf_genera/species/oak_spp.htm)

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Fagaceae
Common Name	Beech
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
Varieties	<i>garryana</i>
Sub-species	
Cultivar	
Common Synonym(s)	
Common Name(s)	Oregon white oak, Garry oak, Brewer's oak, Chêne de Garry
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	QUGA4
GENERAL INFORMATION	

Geographical range	 
Ecological distribution	<p>Oregon white oak is native to western North America. It occurs from Vancouver Island, British Columbia (49 °N latitude), to southern California (34 °N latitude). Oregon white oak is primarily west of the Cascade Range but populations are scattered east of the Cascade Range. The most widely distributed variety is <i>Q. g. var. garryana</i>, which occupies habitats from British Columbia south to possibly Los Angeles County. In the southernmost reaches, <i>Q. g. var. garryana</i> is restricted to riparian sites.</p> <p>Oregon white oak habitat loss is reported throughout its range. A 1998 Pacific Northwest Ecosystem Consortium indicated that Oregon white oak woodlands and savannahs in the Willamette Valley of Oregon have declined to less than 15% of their pre-European settlement extent. In British Columbia, comparisons of early survey records and current occurrence indicate that Oregon white oak habitat loss has exceeded 95%. Habitat loss is primarily due to actions of European settlers that suppressed fires, altered land use, and introduced nonnative species and heavy grazing.</p> <p>In Oregon white oak's easternmost distributions, habitat protection and Oregon white oak conservation alternatives may be limited. Slightly more than 83% of Oregon white oak is privately owned, and none is under permanent protection in southeastern Oregon and California.</p>
Climate and elevation range	<p>Oregon oak is best developed as a tree on slopes, woodlands, mixed evergreen forest, conifer forests, and valleys at an elevation of 1800 m. where annual rainfall exceeds 30 inches. The range in climate is considerable from the relatively cool, moist Fraser Valley of British Columbia to the summer-dry Coast Ranges north of San Francisco and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in California.</p> <p>Oregon oak takes the form of a shrub on nutrient-poor soils (e.g., serpentine) and drier sites, forming clonal thickets. It is tolerant of freezing conditions and also has a broad tolerance of substrates, which vary from rocky, thin soils of ridges</p>

	to the deep loams and clays of valley bottoms.
Local habitat and abundance	Oregon Oak is often associated with local grasslands maintained by fire. In some areas, it can develop into multi-stemmed plants, which may live up to 10 years, until a single shoot becomes dominant. Like most oaks, Oregon oak has an obligate relationship with mycorrhizal fungi, which provide additional moisture and nutrients. Common associates in mixed forests include madrone, Douglas fir, tanbark oak, and yellow pines.
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Oregon Oak is a stress-tolerator, seral, and climax species, thriving in grasslands with frequent fires. In areas where regular fires do not occur it will often be overtaken by Douglas Fir.
Plant characteristics	<i>Quercus garryana</i> is a Pacific Northwest native deciduous tree. It grows up to 30 m tall throughout much of its range in the Pacific Northwest and has an open, rounded crown. However, in the southern part of its range, including interior California, it also is a shrub up to 5 m tall, which is treated as var. <i>breweri</i> Jepson. The mature bark is brown and shallowly fissured in a checker-like pattern. Leaves are oblong to obovate, 8-15 cm long, and deeply lobed (5-7 rounded lobes). The upper surfaces are shiny and dark green, but the lower surfaces are pale green. Like all oaks, Oregon oak is monoecious and wind-pollinated. The acorn cups are composed of thick, tubercled scales. The one-seeded nuts are 2-3 cm long, ovoid, and mature in one year. Flowering takes place from March to May. Fruits mature between August and November. Trees may live up to 500 years.
PROPAGATION DETAILS	
Ecotype	
Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Container
Stock Type	
Time to Grow	There is a rapid development of the tap root initially, and shoot growth is slow but can be increased by increasing the photoperiodism.
Target Specifications	Well-established roots with some leafing. Shoot needs to be 6-10 inches tall before they no longer require weeding.
Propagule Collection Instructions	Can easily be picked or shaken off a tree. Maturation of fruit usually occurs from late September to early November. Care should be taken to collect local fruits, because they may be adapted to local environmental conditions. Viable nuts may be green to brown, and have unblemished walls. Nuts with discoloration or sticky exudates, and small holes caused by insect larvae should be discarded.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	No processing is necessary as seeds are not dormant and should be planted quickly.
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	Oak seeds do not store well and consequently seeds should be planted soon after maturity. They are considered ripe when they separate freely from the acorn cap and fall from the tree. If necessary, acorns can be stored under refrigeration for 3 months or more, but the likelihood of germination and mold growth increases over time. To store acorns, dry them, place

	them in plastic bags, and refrigerate. For longer storage, rinse acorns in a 5-percent bleach solution first, and ensure that the refrigerator is set as close to 33 °F (1 °C) as possible.
Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Seeds may be planted in one-gallon containers, using well-drained potting soil that includes a slow-release fertilizer. Tapered plastic planting tubes, with a volume of 10 cubic inches, can also be used. Seeds should be planted 1-2 inches deep and the soil kept moist and aerated. Seedlings should be transplanted as soon as the first leaves open and become firm, which generally occurs in spring.
Establishment Phase Details	They must be kept cool and moist until germination. Although germination usually occurs in spring, seeds will germinate soon after dispersal under warm, moist conditions; they also can germinate prematurely in cool, moist storage. As with other Oregon white oaks, sowing in the fall may be best. Limited tests indicate rates of viability that are greater than 75 percent. Seeds remain viable for only one season.
Length of Establishment Phase	Seedlings rapidly develop a deep taproot, which may account for their ability to establish in grass and in droughty soils. A taproot will begin to grow within a few weeks, and a shoot will appear in spring. The shoot of natural seedlings often remains small and shrubby for many years, perhaps to accommodate development of deep roots. Regeneration from seed is greatly enhanced when seeds are protected from rodents and other predators.
Active Growth Phase	The establishment phase is followed by a sapling stage with relatively rapid growth for 10 to 20 years.
Length of Active Growth Phase	Given suitable conditions the oak will continue to grow for up to 500 years.
Hardening Phase	
Length of Hardening Phase	
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Seedlings can be harvested and stored easily in nurseries as long as they do not become "root bound." That is, as long as the taproot is circled around the base of the pot. Circled taproots can be very hard to straighten at planting time and usually must be pruned off.
Length of Storage	Seedlings can be grown in nurseries for several years without negatively impacting growth. For some projects it may be beneficial to select seedlings of a variety of ages for planting.
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Planting holes should be at least twice as wide and deep as the container. Seedlings must be watered every 2-3 weeks during the first season. Care should be taken to weed and mulch around young plants until they are 6-10 inches tall. Natural regeneration, through sprouting and seed germination, is promoted by fire, which contributes to expansion and persistence of oak stands. Continued disturbance by fire may result in pure stands that are often associated with an understory of grasses or scattered shrubs. Oregon oak is not as susceptible to oak crown rot fungi as other oaks, unless disturbed by changes that include irrigation. Active disturbance or compact soil around large trees, especially in urban settings, should be avoided.
Other Comments	Growth of Oregon white oak is generally slow. Height growth is usually less than 1 ft per year, and diameter growth is often 15 to 20 rings/in. Faster growth, particularly in diameter, is possible (3 to 10 rings/in.). Stump sprouts may grow as much as 3 ft per year during the first 5 years. Oregon white oak stands may achieve basal area of up to 265 ft ² per acre and volume as high as 4500 ft ³ per acre.
PROPAGATION DETAILS	
Ecotype	

Propagation Goal	Plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Direct Seeding
Stock Type	
Time to Grow	There is a rapid development of the tap root initially, and shoot growth is slow but can be increased by increasing the photoperiodism.
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Growing Area Preparation / Annual Practices for Perennial Crops	Seeds may be planted at the beginning of the winter. Once the site is chosen, prepare holes that are 10 inches in diameter and 4-5 inches deep. One gram of a slow-release fertilizer should be placed in the bottom and covered by a small amount of soil. Place 6-10 acorns in each hole to a depth of 1-2 inches. Rodents or birds should use temporary enclosures to minimize herbivory. A simple enclosure can be constructed from a one-quart plastic dairy container with the top removed and a metal screen attached. Towards the end of the first season, seedlings should be thinned to 2 or 3 per hole and to one seedling by the second season. Supplemental watering may be necessary if a drought of 6 weeks or more occurs during the spring.
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INFORMATION SOURCES

References	<p>Devine, W. D. (2010). <i>Planting native oak in the Pacific Northwest</i>. US Department of Agriculture. https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr804.pdf</p> <p>Eflora.org. (n.d.). <i>Quercus garryana</i> in flora of North America. eFloras.org. https://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=23465</p> <p>Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Society. (2011). <i>The Gary Oak Gardener's Handbook</i> (2nd ed.). http://www.goert.ca/documents/GOERT_Gardeners_Handbook.pdf</p> <p>Gould, P. J., Harrington, C. A., & Devine, W. D. (2011). Growth of Oregon white oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>). <i>Northwest Science</i>, 85(2), 159-171. https://doi.org/10.3955/046.085.0203</p> <p>Harrington, C. A., & Kallas, M. A. (2002). A bibliography for quercus garryana and other geographically associated and botanically related oaks. https://doi.org/10.2737/23465</p>
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Other Sources Consulted	<p>Jepson Flora Project. (1993). <i>UC/JEPS: Jepson manual treatment for quercus garryana</i>. University and Jepson Herbaria Home Page. https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/get_JM_treatment.pl?Quercus%20garryana</p> <p>Oregon State University. (n.d.). <i>Oak species: Common trees of the Pacific Northwest</i>. https://oregonstate.edu/trees/broadleaf_genera/species/oak_spp.htm</p>
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