

Why White Oak?



- The majestic white oak is a keystone tree species in Tennessee prized for various wood products, acorns and habitat for wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics.
- White oak occurs in all 95 counties in Tennessee and is a common species on more than 5.5 million acres owned by private forest landowners.
- The pores of white oak wood are impervious to liquids making it a preferred species for tight cooperage or whiskey barrels. White oak wood also imparts distinctive flavorings during the aging process of whiskeys.
- Flooring, furniture, millwork, tight cooperage, firewood, structural timbers, boxes/crates/pallets, charcoal, and tool handles are common products manufactured from the hard, dense wood of white oak.
- White oak is a long-lived species often approaching a life span of 200+ years on productive sites.
- The Tennessee Forestry Association likes white oak trees.

Planting Your White Oak Seedling

Plant your white oak seedling as soon as possible once the seedling is received. If you have to wait several days up to two weeks later for planting, keep the seedling in a cool, shady area and keep the roots moist so they do not dry out.

Dig a hole with a shovel about twice as wide and deep enough to accommodate the roots of the seedling.

Place the seedling in the hole, spread the root system, and backfill to where the root flares or where the roots would be covered. Planting too deep will limit oxygen to the roots; planting too shallow exposes roots where they may dry out. Avoid j-shaped bends of the roots.

The soil around the roots should be firmly packed to avoid air pockets. Water the seedling. Apply mulch around the planted seedling being careful not to touch the base of the seedling. Mulch provides some protection from weedy vegetation and allows improved infiltration of water into the soil.

Construct a low ridge of soil around the edge of the planting hole to hold water in the rooting area.

The soil should be kept moist, but not wet or soggy after planting. During drought periods, seedlings should be watered every week. The soil should be allowed to dry between waterings.

