

MIGHTY ACORN SOCIETY™

Mighty Acorn Hunt: How-To Guide

1. HOW TO: Spot and Identify Oak Species

Oaks fall into two groups: white oaks and red/black oaks.

- **Leaves:** Oak leaves often have lobes. White oaks have rounded lobes, while red oaks have pointed ones.
- **Bark:** White oaks typically have light, flaky bark. Red oaks have darker, ridged bark.
- Choose the best oak: Old, full-crowned oaks produce the most viable acorns. Wide crowns, thick trunks, balanced branching usually indicate resilience. Avoid non-natives (like English Oak) they don't support as much local wildlife.



TIP - USE YOUR PHONE TO IDENTIFY TREES!

iPhone: Open the Photos app, select your tree photo, tap the info ('i') button, and look for 'Look Up – Plant'.

Android: Use Google Photos, tap the Google Lens icon on your tree photo, and it will suggest possible matches.



2. HOW TO: Collect Acorns

- Acorns are usually ready in early fall (September–October), when they begin to fall naturally.
- Acorns that detach easily when gently twisted from the tree are often ready.
- Avoid collecting too early green acorns are usually not mature.
- Collect safely! Avoid busy roadsides and always ask permission on private property.





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3. HOW TO: Map Your Oak Trees

- When you find oak trees, mark their locations using your phone's GPS, a paper map, or an app like Google Maps.
- This will make it easy to return to the same trees year after year.





4. HOW TO: Identify Healthy Acorns

- Collect acorns that are brown, firm, and free of cracks or holes.
- Avoid acorns that are green, shriveled, or have insect damage.
- **Float Test:** Place acorns in a bowl of water. Healthy, viable acorns sink, while non-viable ones float.

5. HOW TO: Store Acorns Over Winter

- Place viable acorns in a plastic bag with a dry paper towel to absorb excess moisture.
- Store in the refrigerator (not freezer).
- Check monthly or more for mold or drying. Replace paper towel if needed.



6. HOW TO: Grow Your Own Oaks

Join the Mighty Acorn Society in Spring 2026 and we'll guide you through the potting and planting process!

Visit our website for more info about joining the Mighty Acorn Society.

