

# Transforming an acorn into an Oak

## *Recipe: Nature's Way of Growing Acorns*

*Important: This recipe has been created for webinar attendees who receive acorns from Monarch Research that have been refrigerated for the past 4 months.*

### INGREDIENTS

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| 1. Fertile Acorn            | Native acorns are provided by Monarch Research.                      |
| 2. Ground Cover             | Oak leaves are preferred over mulch.                                 |
| 3. Fine Mesh Fencing        | 2' in diameter works best to prevent rodents from digging up acorns. |
| 4. Coarse Wire Mesh Fencing | 4' in diameter (4-5'high) protects against deer.                     |

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Select the location** for your Northern Red Oak acorns. It needs sunlight and room for it to grow into a large tree over the next 300 years.
- Clear the ground** in a 2' diameter circle. If there is sod, remove it, but don't disturb the ground under the sod! You do not want weeds or grass growing in the circle.
- Plant 3 acorns** inside the circle, spread apart from each other; scratch the soil enough that you can press the acorn into the ground, so it is even with the rest of the earth. The earth should have moisture, but if not, moisten it inside the circle.
- You must **protect the three acorns**. Place a fine mesh fence, in a 2' circle, to stop squirrels, deer, and other foraging animals. Adding a garbage can lid will stop climbing squirrels!
- Loosely cover the ground with oak leaves** approximately 1-2" thick.

**NOTE:** We use three acorns because not all will germinate; if they do, you will pick the best seedling to remain and gently remove the other two. Do not disturb the roots of your best seedling.

- You will want to **change the fine mesh fence to the coarse wire mesh fence at the end of year 1**. Replace with a 5' high coarse wire mesh fence, in a 4' diameter circle (this will remain for 4-5 years). Remove any weeds or grass growing within the circle.
- Water when the top 2 inches of soil dry out**. Check every other day in the summer months when it is 80-100 degrees. The leaves around your tree will hold moisture, so when you add water, soak it well and let the loose oak leaf mulch do its job!

**Tip:** Put a bucket with a hole in the bottom next to your tree so you remember to check for moisture and water when needed.

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**The key to successful acorn transformation is fencing - covering it so animals don't eat the acorn or the tree!**

**Watch the webinar video** online at [monarchresearch.org/events](http://monarchresearch.org/events) to hear Dr. Doug Tallamy directly.