



How to Identify an Oregon White Oak (OWO)

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“Stewarding Our Oregon Oaks”)

A Deep Background on Oregon White Oak

- Scientific Name: *Quercus garryana*
- Family: *Fagaceae*
- Quick Details:
 - Deciduous Tree (leaves will shed during autumn)
 - Native to Willamette Valley
 - Blooms mid-late Spring
 - Anywhere from 3-83 ft tall
 - Can be a tree or a shrub
 - Oregon White Oak communities are very diverse and an important habitat for many wildlife species
 - Used to be maintained by indigenous people through controlled burning
 - Fire Suppression and human development has drastically reduced the population of this tree species



Main Identifiers of the Oregon White Oak

01

Leaves

Alternate, oval to egg-shaped, 2-5 in. long; long, shiny, and dark green; edges deeply lobed, lobes and leaf tips rounded (Turner and Kuhlmann 194)



02

Fruit (Acorns)

Acorn matures in 1 year, oblong to roundish, about 1 in. long, cap cup- or saucer shaped. Acorns can be all different shapes and sizes. (C Leo Hitchcock et al. 17–221)



Other identifiers of the OWO

Flowers

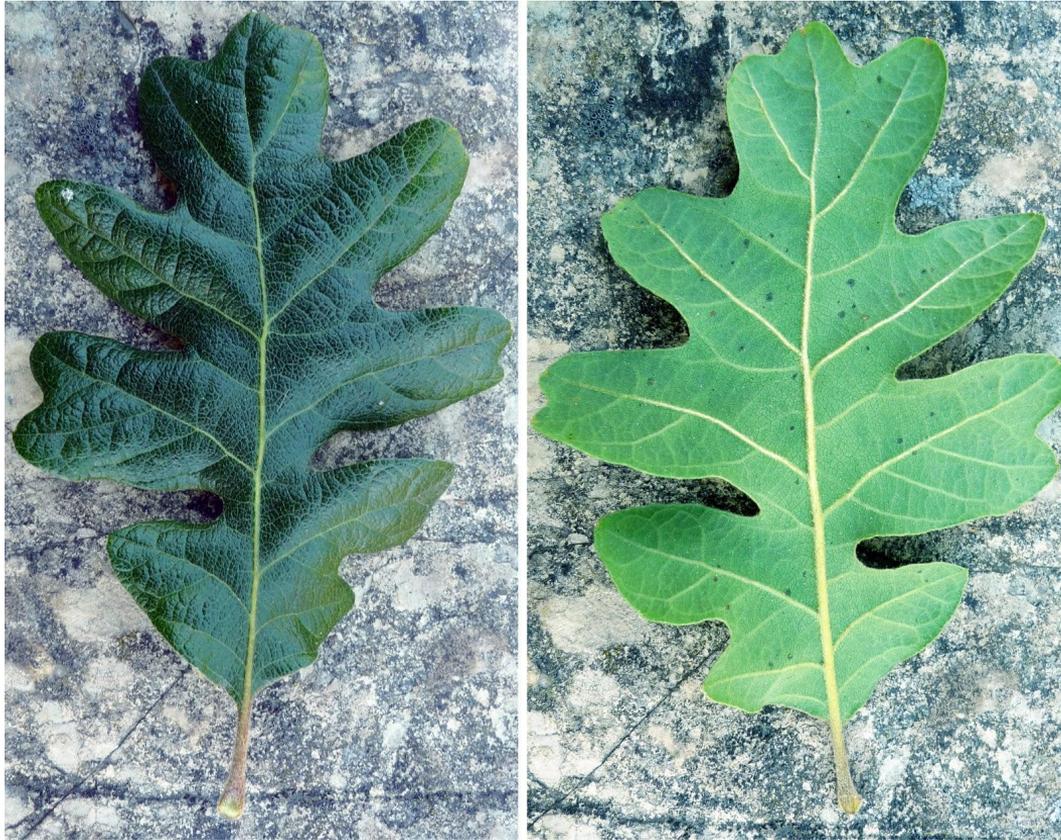
- Male Flowers in drooping catkins (pictured right)
- Female Flowers in clusters of 2-4 in leaf axils (pictured left)
- Both gender of flowers (male and female) are found on the same plant
- Male Catkins are arranged in a spike



Female Flowers



Male Flowers
(Catkins)



This photo shows upper side (pictured left) and under side (pictured right) of an Oregon White Oak leaf.

Simple Descriptions of the OWO

- **Leaf:** Alternate, simple, deciduous, pinnately lobed with 5 to 9 irregular rounded lobes, lobes often touch or overlap, 3 to 6 inches long and 2 to 4 1/2 inches wide, dark green and shiny above and paler below, leathery but not persistent.
- **Flower:** Species is monoecious; inconspicuous, male and female flowers borne in separate aments (catkins) on current year's twigs, male flowers borne in hanging catkins, female flowers borne in small clusters, appearing with the leaves.
- **Fruit:** Solitary or paired acorns on current year's growth; about 1 inch long, light brown, cap is shallow and bowl-like, covering only about 1/3 of the nut, mature in a single season.
- **Twig:** Stout, originally hairy but becoming smooth and reddish brown to gray; buds are densely hairy and are covered with imbricate scales, terminal buds are clustered.
- **Bark:** Mature bark is thin (less than 1 inch), light gray to gray-brown, shallow irregular furrows separating short, broad ridges.
- **Form:** A deciduous broad-leaved tree growing 40 to 80 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet in diameter (sometimes larger). In the open, it has a dense, rounded crown; when grown in stands, its crown is narrow and irregular.

(“Virginia Tech Dendrology Fact Sheet”)

Thank you!

Questions/Inquiries?
Interested in donating acorns?

Please contact us at:
Email: growing-oaks@willamette.edu
<https://growing-oaks.wixsite.com/my-site-4>



Works Cited

- C Leo Hitchcock, et al. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest : An Illustrated Manual*. Seattle, University Of Washington Press ; Burke Museum Of Natural History And Culture, 2018, pp. 17–221.
- Turner, Mark, and Ellen E Kuhlmann. *Trees & Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*. Portland, Oregon, Timber Press, 2014, p. 194.
- “Virginia Tech Dendrology Fact Sheet.” *Vt.edu*, 2021, dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=240. Accessed 12 Nov. 2021.