

# School-to-Nature

## Red Oak Tree vs White Oak Tree



<b>RED OAK: Scientific Name Quercus Rubra</b>	<b>WHITE OAK: Scientific Name Quercus Alba</b>
Grows 60-65' tall and wide, faster growing tree, 2-3' per year.	Grows 50-100' tall and 50-80' wide, slower growing tree, 1-2' per year.
Leaves are long and lobed with <b>pointed</b> edges, 5-9" long, turning red/wine red late in autumn. (See the photo at the bottom for color.)	Leaves are long and lobed but with <b>rounded</b> edges, 5-8" long, turning yellow/red-brown late in autumn. (See the photo at the bottom.)
Acorns: ¾-1" in size, reddish brown nut with tan cap; more bitter; seeds sprout in spring; vital food source for deer later in winter.	Acorns: 1" in size, light brown nut with grey cap; less bitter; seeds sprout in autumn immediately after falling, if animals don't find and eat them.
Red Oak wood is more porous so it is better for painting or staining, in carpentry.	White Oak wood is less porous, better for unfinished indoor/outdoor carpentry uses.
Wood burns faster/hotter, but takes 3 years to be ready as firewood.	Wood burns slower, less hot, but takes less time to be ready as firewood.
Used to make cabinets and furniture; shiplap planks used in ship-building and in construction; flooring; and fence posts.	Used to make cabinets and furniture; used also in ship-building, and for whiskey and wine barrels.

**Extra OAK facts:** Acorns develop within a cup like structure called a "capule." Acorns contain 1 seed, occasionally 2 or 3. Acorns are an important source of food for many forest critters. Blue Jays carry away and bury more than they can eat, seeding new trees!

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