

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*)

Distribution

Oregon White Oak also known as Garry Oak occurs in Washington throughout the Puget Sound basin south to Oregon, up the Columbia River to near Goldendale, and in pockets along the east side of the Cascades at lower elevations.

Growth Habit

It is often found as a small, deciduous upright irregular growing tree. Occasionally, mature specimens can reach 60 feet tall with relatively straight trunks. The shiny attractive leaves are deciduous with 3-7 lobes on each side. The fruit produces a very tasty acorn.

Adaptability

Oregon White Oak is adapted to grow on sites that range from dry to moist and from sunny to partially shade. It is most commonly found growing on drier, more exposed sites, but that may be due to competing vegetation displacing it on moister sites, since it is initially slow growing. It does not grow well in heavy shade.

Comments

- Oregon White Oak is a slow growing species, and may require good weed control so that it is not choked out.
- Once established, stands of Oregon White Oak provide good habitat for many species of birds and mammals.
- Its wood is valued for its strength, making it an important commercial species.
- It has not been of significant value in the ornamental industry even though the often gnarled growth habit can be striking.

