

# White Oak



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  

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ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# WHITE OAK

*Quercus alba* L.

FAMILY: Fagaceae

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



**SIZE:** large tree, up to 100 feet tall



**LEAF:** leaves are simple with 7 - 11 deep rounded lobes



**FLOWER:** very small; male and female flowers are separate- female flowers are single; male flowers hang in clusters called catkins



**FRUIT:** acorn, about 3/4 inches long



**BARK:** light gray with ridges or can be scaled and flaky



## Where to Look

White oak is abundant in the mountains and piedmont of Georgia. It grows best in rich moist soil and is often found with other oaks and hickories.

## Importance to Humans

Economically, white oak is one of our most important trees. The strong, hard wood is used for building, furniture, floors, farm tools, fencing and firewood.

## Importance to Wildlife

The acorns of white oak are an important food source for many small mammals and the trees provide shelter and nesting sites.