

# Growing California Oak Trees

Native California oak trees are important to many living creatures, including you—think of how they cool you down when you sit in their shade on hot days.

Here's how you can help a tiny acorn become a mighty oak:

**1.** Choose an acorn with no holes or cracks and soak it in water for 24 hours. If it floats, it won't grow, so chose another acorn.



**2.** Choose a container with holes in the bottom so water can drain. Then fill the container with good soil.



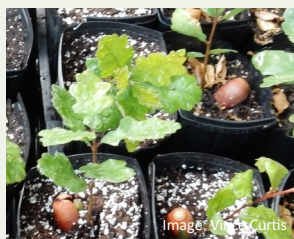
**3.** Plant the acorn one-half to one inch below soil surface. Place acorn on it's side and cover with soil. November to March is the best time to plant.



**4.** Place the container outside in full sun. Water it often and don't let it dry out.



**5.** Stand back and watch your acorn sprout into a little oak tree. Let it grow in it's container until fall.



**6.** Plant your seedling in autumn in a sunny location. Dig a hole twice as wide as the container and surround the roots with loose soil. Plant your seedling away from buildings, hard surfaces and utility lines. Protect it from wildlife. Mulch and water seedling consistently during the first year.



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## Oak Trees Facts

- Oaks belong to the genus *Quercus* in the beech family, Fagaceae
- There are 500 species of oaks. Twenty are native to California
- Some oaks are deciduous (drop their leaves) while others are evergreen
- Acorns and leaves contain tannic acid, which can be toxic in high quantities
- Species that call oak woodlands home: 5,000 insect, 105 bird, 105 mammal and 58 amphibian

Oak trees take years to mature, so future generations will enjoy the magnificent tree you planted!

# California Oak Woodland Wildlife

California Oak woodlands are one of the richest habitats in the state with well over 300 terrestrial vertebrates utilizing woodlands at some time during the year.

How the woodlands are managed can have a significant impact on a great number of animal species, so it's important to help protect them.

Here are just a few of the animals who call California oak woodlands home.



BOBCAT



CALIFORNIA NEWT



ACORN  
WOODPECKER



DUSKY-FOOTED WOODRAT



GRAY SQUIRREL

Images courtesy of UC ANR

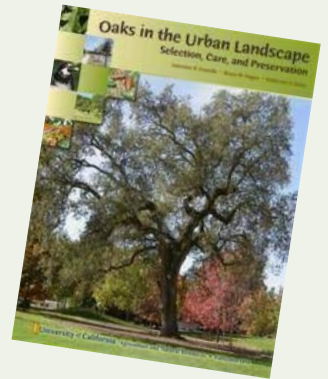
*A special thanks to the many people who do research on California oak trees and then share their work so others can learn. And an extra-special thanks to those who shared their knowledge for this flyer:*

- Annemiek Schilder, Director, UCCE Ventura County/Hansen REC
- Vince Curtis, National Park Service volunteer and oak tree lover
- Janet Miller Wall, Master Gardener of Ventura County
- Doug McCreary, Natural Resources Specialist, University of California Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program
- Earlene Millier, Master Gardener of Contra Costa County
- James Downer, Advisor, UCCE Ventura County

## Learn more!

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) helps people involved with agriculture and natural resources throughout the state using UC research. Their most important job is improving communities and lives of all Californians, including yours!

UC ANR Publications offer downloadable publications and hard copy books written by UC researchers on many topics, including California oaks. Most publications are free downloads. Here's a list of UC ANR publications about California oak trees to get you started. To see these publications and many more, go to [ANR Catalog \(ucanr.edu\)](http://ucanr.edu).



- [How to Grow California Oaks](#)
- [Living among the oaks: A Management Guide for Landowners and Managers](#)
- [Oak Woodland Invertebrates: The Little Things Count](#)
- [Oaks in the Urban Landscape](#)
- [Burned Oaks: Which Ones Will Survive?](#)
- [Small-Parcel Landowner's Guide to woodland Management](#)
- [Regenerating Rangeland Oaks in California](#)
- [Protecting Trees from Sudden Oak Death before Infection](#)
- [Sudden Oak Death: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#)
- [Landscape Pest Identification Cards](#)
- [Oak Pit Scales: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#)
- [Goldspotted Oak Borer: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#)
- [California Oakworm: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#)