



White Oak

(Quercus Alba, Fagaceae)



Brittany Alcorn

Characteristics

- ✓ Mostly found in Eastern U.S. The White Oak can grow from high mountain slopes to wet lowlands. (1)
- ✓ Grow anywhere between 80-100 feet tall, 3-4 feet in diameter around the trunk. (1)
- ✓ In the spring the leaves start out a soft pink color. In the summer they are a yellow-green color. And in fall they are a red-brown color. (2)
- ✓ Leaves are alternately arranged, oblong, and usually 7 lobed.
- ✓ Flowers of the white Oak appear in May. There are both male (staminate) and female (pistillate). Male flowers are bright yellow and female flowers are bright red.
- ✓ Acorns are produced when the tree is about 20 years old.
- ✓ The bark is a whitish grey color.

Question?

Which of the following is a characteristic of the White Oak?

- A) Bark is whitish grey B) Grow 80-100 feet
C) Produce acorns D) All of the above

Facts

- ❖ Mostly resistant to disease and insects. (2) Can develop fungal infections, If the White Oak were to survive it is still the host for the fungus.(3)
- ❖ White Oak is valued for furniture, flooring, cabinets, barrels for wine making, Japanese martial arts weapons. This wood is mainly chosen because it is water and rot resistant. (1 and 2)
- ❖ Acorns are very important for wildlife. Native Americans used them for bread, mouth sores, chapped skin, asthma, and coughs. (3)
- ❖ Gypsy Moth has caused many deaths for the White Oaks. They lay eggs on the tree and it causes the oak to develop fungal infection. (3)
- ❖ White Oak can live to be 500-600 years old.

Sources

- 1) www.blueplanetbiomes.org/white_oak.html
- 2) www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_alba
- 3) www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/trees/Q-alba.html

