PLANT FACT SHEET

Quercus alba L.

GENUS *Quercus* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES White oak, Quebec oak, Stave oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The acorns are eaten after leaching. The dried acorns are crushed in water for food. They are also dried and boiled. They can be baked slowly and mixed with salt and butter.

DESCRIPTION

A medium to large tree. It grows to 35 m high. It spreads about 30 m wide. The trunk is 120 cm across. The leaves are 10-20 cm long and with 7-9 lobes. The leaves are usually widest above the middle. The lobes are rounded and narrow. There are deep notches between the lobes. The leaves are pinkish and downy when unfolded. The upper surface becomes bright green and they are paler underneath. They can turn reddish-purple in autumn. The acorns are 12-20 mm long. They occur either singly or in pairs. The cup is bowl shaped. It encloses about one quarter of the nut.

HABITAT

It is native to eastern North America. Temperate. It grows in a variety of soils. It can tolerate some shade. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It can live for several hundred years old.

NOTES

There are about 600 Quercus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/67c7b7d3-cb72-43db-899e-95950b3a94b9