

# The Million Acorn Challenge



## ATTENTION!

Please do not harvest acorns from trees that appear sick or dying from disease. We do not want to plant acorns that are susceptible to oak wilt or other tree diseases that will reduce our chances for restoring a healthy and vibrant oak forest in years to come.

Harvest acorns from health trees with full leaf canopies and few dead branches. If trees have die back with dead branches, or yellow or discolored leaves do not harvest acorns from that location.



### WHERE

Acorns must be harvested from within 25 miles of the Franconia Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area, see attached map for potential harvest sites. Many parks, golf courses and private lands have numerous oaks with thousands of acorns beneath them. Choose healthy looking trees to collect under. You must obtain permission from the landowner before collecting acorns. This includes public lands such as parks. Great River Greening has permits available for use at several parks. If you choose to collect at a different location we will provide you with a letter detailing the project to support you in obtaining permission.



### How

Acorns should be collected from the ground beneath oak trees as soon after dropping as possible. We suggest collecting the acorns quickly by raking them into piles which are easy to scoop up. They can also be hand-picked from the ground. Please try to keep the different species separated and labeled (see the descriptions on the backside to identify them) so they can be planted in an appropriate place. Acorns that sit on the ground for long periods have a higher chance of insect damage or being hoarded by squirrels.



### STORAGE

The most important thing to remember when storing acorns is to keep them cool and moist. If they are too warm they may begin sprouting in the bag and if they dry out, they won't germinate. Great River Greening staff will coordinate a drop off or pick up time as the acorns are collected. In the mean time it will be your responsibility to keep the acorns in a safe cool place. Once your group collects an appreciable amount of acorn seed call Tory Christensen 612-385-9105 or Mark Turbak to coordinate a pick up or drop off time and location.

To collect acorns, you **MUST** have permission from the landowner, whether private or public. This includes parks and other public lands.

*Great River Greening is not responsible for failure to obtain permission.*



[www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org)

*restoring the land,  
renewing communities*

# The Million Acorn Challenge

## COLLECT ACORNS WITHIN 25 MILES OF FRANCONIA BLUFFS SNA

All acorns that are collected for the St Croix Acorn Challenge will be used to restore an abandoned 10 acre farm field at Franconia Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area.

All acorns collected for the St Croix Acorn Challenge have to be collected from within 25 miles of Franconia Bluffs SNA. Please Contact Tory Christensen @ 651-665-9500 ext 12 with questions or possible collection locations in the area.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIES



#### **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

**Acorn:** The acorns are big (over 1") and have a large cap with a fringed edge covering much of the acorn.

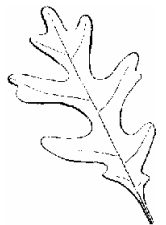
**Leaf:** The leaf tip is broad (up to 5" wide) and has shallow, rounded lobes. The base is narrower with deeper lobes. The leaves are up to 6" long.



#### **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*)

**Acorn:** The acorns are an oblong shape and up to 1" long. A cap covers about 1/4 of the nut.

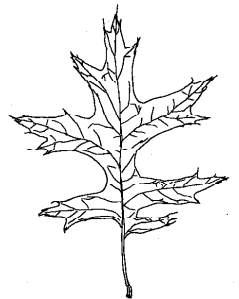
**Leaf:** Leaves are usually up to 7-8" long and 3-4" wide. They have rounded lobes that are generally deeper than those of Bur Oak.



#### **Northern Pin Oak** (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)

**Acorn:** The acorns are around 1/2"- 3/4" wide and long. They rest in a shallow cap.

**Leaf:** Deeply lobed leaves with pointed ends up to 6" long.



#### **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*)

**Acorn:** The acorns are 3/4" wide and long. They sit in a shallow cap that covers only the base.

**Leaf:** Leaves are similar to the Pin Oak but the lobes are usually shallower (less than 1/3 of the leaf width) and the leaves slightly longer.



For more help with identification visit:

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees\\_shrubs/deciduous/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees_shrubs/deciduous/index.html)

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/treeid/comnameindx.htm>

Bur Oak: NDSU  
Pin Oak: Iowa State University  
Red Oak: [www.ostermiller.org](http://www.ostermiller.org)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT:  
Tory L Christensen, Landscape Ecologist  
[tchristensen@greatrivergreening.org](mailto:tchristensen@greatrivergreening.org)  
[www.greatrivergreening.org/acornchallenge.asp](http://www.greatrivergreening.org/acornchallenge.asp)



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