



# Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

*Dedicated to Protecting Victoria's Heritage Landscape*

## 2019 Garry Oak Acorn Collecting

**This year, please limit your collecting to a total of 2 litres of acorns per area per person.**

**We have a special emphasis on regions that have traditionally been in short supply in past years. We really want are more acorns from the Esquimalt, Saanich Peninsula, Metchosin, Sooke, View Royal, Colwood, the Highlands and especially Langford.**

**That said, acorns from Oak Bay, Victoria and Saanich are still needed.**

**Please be sure to clean your acorns, float test them and label them with the location of nearest intersecting streets and municipal region.**

### **Acorn Collection & Selection:**

Garry oak acorns mature around September and fall to the ground from that time until approximately mid-October. Drought stress has caused many trees to abort their acorns and the trees are dropping green acorns in mid-August. Please don't collect green acorns!

Select large brown, mature acorns - not the small acorns. Mature acorns are brown in colour; if they are green they are not fully mature. Don't collect cracked acorns or ones with small holes which may indicate the presence of a weevil inside.

Collect frequently and do not allow the acorns to dry out too much. Germination rates will be reduced if the acorns lose too much moisture. Please don't collect acorns with caps still attached.

If you intend to collect acorns on land that is not yours, please ensure that you have the permission of the agency, landowner or property manager to access that land. This includes public land managed by Municipal Parks Departments or School Boards - please respect private property and do not trespass.

Please limit the quantity of acorns collected in a single area to approximately 2 litres – a standard milk cart will do.

Please do not deliver any planted acorns to us – we do not accept potted plants, seedlings or anything in soil – only acorns. Collect them from different locations as this will help us to ensure a wider range of seed diversity from across Greater Victoria!

## **Kids – you'll love this part: There's a "Float Test" required!**



Collected acorns must be given a float test in water. With help from an adult, fill up a bucket and toss in your acorns.

**Keep the acorns which sink and discard any that float!**

Inspect the sinkers and discard any with weevil holes.

## Storage:

If you're planting at home sprouting acorns can be sowed right away as there is no embryo dormancy.

**Don't toss 'em in a bucket and hide it behind the garage – they will sprout and grow!**

If you plan to deliver them to our Volunteer Non-Profit Nursery Project place your non-sprouted acorns in a heavy-duty black plastic bag. Be certain to *label their collection location* as described on the previous page, and place in a cool place, cold basement room or a fridge for a short time.

## Where to Drop Off your Garry Oak Acorns

Thank you for collecting Garry oak acorns in support of the Garry Oak Growers Group! Please double check that you have labeled your acorns on the outside and inside of the bag. It is important that acorns be properly bagged in strong black plastic bags.

Acorns may be dropped off at two locations in Saanich:

### 1545 Eric Road

Follow Mt. Douglas Cross Road to Livingstone Avenue, turn left on Beam Crescent and then right on Eric Road.

Acorns may be dropped on left side of house near garage – look for a specially marked Rubbermaid style container.

### 666 Jones Terrace

Follow Burnside Road West to Biscoe Drive then turn right onto Jones Terrace.

Acorns may be dropped in garage – look for a specially marked Rubbermaid style container.

## Thank you for helping us.

If you would like to volunteer please check our website:

<http://www.garryoak.info>

or email us

[grow.oaks@gmail.com](mailto:grow.oaks@gmail.com)