

You are now the proud owner of a Garry oak tree!



This is the only oak tree native to our area and it's also the flagship of the Garry oak ecosystem – one of the rarest and most threatened ecosystems in British Columbia.

The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

(GOMPS) formed in 1992 because local citizens were concerned that native Garry oak woodlands and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of expanding human habitation in the Capital Regional District.

We are a 100% volunteer-based society dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oak stands and their natural habitats.

This mini guide will introduce you to the Garry oak and provide some basic planting and care instructions.

Thank you for your support!

Planting your seedling

The Garry oak is a tree of the future which can easily adapt to warming climates. This seedling could live more than 100 years if you start it off right and provide initial care to help it establish in your garden or yard.

Your little oak may grow too slowly in the shade so **choose a site that is well lit**. Imagine what the site may look like in 50 years and don't plant close to buildings, roads or sidewalks. Be certain to avoid utilities such as sewer or natural gas lines and overhead wires. Check www.bconecall.bc.ca for help locating underground services. Remember the gardener's motto:

Right plant, right place!

When you are ready to plant your seedling **clear away any grass and weeds from the site**. They will compete for nutrients, moisture and may even outgrow the young tree robbing it of valuable sunlight. The best time to plant a Garry oak seedling is in the fall.

Before you remove the seedling from the pot take note of the soil level and where it meets the trunk. When you plant it in the ground be sure not to plant it deeper than that level.

When the seedling is in the ground water it in gently so there is moisture available. **Apply a thin layer of mulch over the top of the area**. Mulch will help cool the ground, reduce weeds and, as it decomposes it will provide nutrients and a home for beneficial organisms like insects.

Detailed tree planting instructions can be found on this site from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA):

www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/plantingatree

Protecting your seedling

In the first 5 – 10 years it will be necessary to protect your seedling. Rodents, deer, rabbits, voles and or human vandals may harm it. **Construct a wire cage** using welded wire fence, chicken wire or even plastic construction fence to create a barrier around your seedling. Be sure to check on the cage regularly to ensure it is intact and not prohibiting the young tree's growth. Adding an extra wrap of material means your tree cage can expand as the tree grows.

Establishing the seedling

Just because this is a native tree doesn't mean it can survive without your help. The seedling needs help to establish which means you must weed around it and **be sure to water it regularly through the hot dry days of summer**.

This little seedling has the potential to grow great and tall providing a legacy for your children and grandchildren. A true tree for our future.





It's about more than the trees...

GOMPS formed in 1992 because local citizens were concerned that native Garry oak woodlands and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of expanding human habitation in the Capital Regional District. Development and human actions have caused the destruction of so many Garry oak ecosystems.

Collectively, Garry oak and associated ecosystems are among the most endangered in Canada — less than 5% of the original habitat remains in a near-natural condition. It is important to retain the components of these ecosystems as much as possible to preserve their integrity and biological diversity.

Source: www.goert.ca
Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team

We are a 100% volunteer-run society registered in British Columbia with Canada Revenue Agency charitable status:

BC Societies Incorporation: S0029698
CRA Registration: 141110908 RR0001

Our society is dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oak stands and their natural habitats.

We need your help. The oaks need your help.
Please consider volunteering with GOMPS.
We need help with advocacy **and** our nursery.

Would you like to volunteer at our Garry Oak Nursery?

The GOMPS Garry Oak Nursery is meeting the challenge of producing local Garry oaks. Over the past 6 years we have distributed more than 1700 Garry Oak seedlings! We have supplied seedlings to local governments, restoration groups and private individuals.

In spring, our nursery volunteers plant acorns collected during the previous autumn and stored over winter in a fridge. Throughout the year our nursery volunteers monitor/tend to the seedlings.

Visit our web site to read more about our Nursery operations:

<http://www.garryoak.info/garry-oak-nursery.html>

**Another way you can help is by joining
our Society or offering financial support.**

**Membership rates are very reasonable
and it's a simple way to help us spread the
word and halt the destruction of this
unique and rare habitat.**

**Use the membership form shown at right
to join now!**



Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

Dedicated to Preserving Victoria's Heritage Landscape



www.garryoak.info
contact@garryoak.info

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society GOMPS

P.O. Box 30044, RPO Reynolds, Victoria BC V8X 5E1
www.garryoak.info

Membership/Renewal

Memberships will be on a 12 month renewal. Please mail this form with a cheque to the address above or by email and e-transfer: finance@garryoak.info GOMPS obtains express consent for email communications through our donation, membership, and website sign-up forms. By submitting your email address, you agree to receive communications from us, and you may unsubscribe at any time.

Our emails may include information about:

- Society updates and activities;
- Restoration events, volunteer opportunities, and workshops;
- Funding needs, donation campaigns and membership drives

Membership & Donation Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Membership Dues - Please tick one

☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$20

☐ Donation of

\$

See our website for details on memberships, email, privacy policy and more ...

