



RESOURCES FOR ACORNS IN THE CLASSROOM

Dear Oak Tree Caregivers:

Thank you so much for offering to foster these oak acorns! We are excited that you will be planting and caring for these beautiful acorn and seedlings which will grow into majestic trees. Each acorn that you grow will be planted this Winter where the acorn was collected at either our preserves or the [Point Loma Native Plant Garden](#) here in town.

Planting the baby trees where they were collected yields the highest success as they flourish where the “mother tree” is rooted. Within each species, there are genetic adaptations to thrive within different soils and climates. Here are tips to successfully grow your acorns into seedlings.

Setting up your potting area:

- Make sure you have a hose or other water supply nearby.
- Potted plants grow best when they are at least 1-3 ft. off of the ground.

Ways to Raise the Planting Station

- Use a wood pallet, two saw horses and a piece of wood or an old door
- Use old cinder blocks, bricks, or old shelving.
- Check the “*Nextdoor*” App to see if these supplies are available.
- Protect your acorns from pests like squirrels, rabbits, or rats by covering the pots with mesh window screen ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch or less mesh fabric), or sunshade cloth – which are available at Home Supply stores – until they germinate and growth can be seen.

Growing Acorns to Seedlings Care:

- **Ideal conditions:**
 - Light shade with morning and late afternoon sun or partial shade/partial sun.
 - Create shade with cloth at least part of the day until they start showing growth.
- Keep soil moist from now until at least 3-4 weeks after you start seeing green growth.
- Water the acorns whenever the top 2” of potting soil feels barely moist.
- Continue watering regularly after sprouting, but allow the top 3” to dry before adding more water. Slight moisture stress will encourage the production of a healthy taproot.
- No need to fertilize. Fertilizer is not good for trees like oaks as they are slow growers.

We will arrange to pick up the baby oak trees just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Please reach out if you have questions, need help, or have concerns: natalie@sandiegoriver.org.

Good luck! Have fun growing your acorn babies.

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