

When to plant: Plant acorns in the wet season (about Nov through Feb)

Choosing a site:

- Pick the right site for the species: blue oaks in the sun, black oaks & tanoaks above 2000', black oaks a bit sheltered from the wind, live oaks often just as happy on exposed sites as well as in valleys. Below 2000' we only recommend blue oaks.
- Plant acorns following the Town of Paradise Defensible Space Ordinance
 - 25' from power lines
 - 10' from roads and driveways
 - 12' to 50' from other trees
 - 50' from structures

Note: The year following a fire, hardwood species like those pictured below tend to sprout from their root crown - even if they looked dead after the fire. Treat these burned trees like live trees, and don't plant an acorn right next to them. To figure out whether an oak will resprout or not, head to our Fire Recovery page at bcrd.org (QR code below). **When In Doubt - Assume They'll Re-Sprout**



Tanoaks sprouting after fire.
Photo by Neal Kramer



Planting acorns:

- Clear a 3' diameter area (remove grasses & weeds) to limit competition for water.
- Dig a hole 3" deep (4-6" deep if you'll use fertilizer), about 6" wide, in the center of the cleared area.
- If you choose to place a little slow-release fertilizer in the hole, add soil to cover it, then lay three acorns in the hole, on their sides. Make sure acorns are reburied about 2" deep.
- Give acorns a quart of water, ensuring the acorns remain covered.
- You can mulch the 3' diameter around the acorns to conserve soil moisture and prevent weeds. Wood chips or burned bits of slash are great mulch!

In early March or April, you should be able to see sprouts. If there is more than one, cut or carefully remove extra sprouts by June.



Photo: Neal Kramer

Black Oak
Quercus kelloggii



Photo: Keir Morse

Madrone
Arbutus menziesii



Photo: Neal Kramer

Interior Live Oak
Quercus wislizeni



Photo: Neal Kramer

Tanoak
Notholithocarpus densiflorus



Photo: Eugene Zelenko

Blue Oak
Quercus douglasii



Want tips on *gathering and storing* acorns? Scan the QR code to bcrd.org/fire-recovery-for-landowners and check out CNPS "Acorn To An Oak" guide