

Terry McGuire

Tree planter extraordinaire

Terry McGuire is a stalwart supporter of the Grow a Tree from Seed scheme and, along with three generations of his family, has been planting trees in the Forest for over 10 years. In 2015 the National Forest Company presented him with a certificate to acknowledge his dedication to the scheme. Terry has a lifelong interest in forestry and gained a diploma in timber technology as part of his shipyard apprenticeship in Edinburgh.



Terry says *“I’ve watched the development of The National Forest from the very beginnings. It’s a thrilling thing to do, to plant a forest using the old brownfield sites and on the old pits and open cast mines. We needed a large lung in the Midlands.”*

A true friend of The National Forest!

Tree Trivia

- Research shows that being in woodlands and surrounded by nature and trees has a positive effect on our mental and physical well-being.
- Trees produce oxygen and help to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Oak trees are usually large in size. They can reach over 70 feet in height, with trunks as wide as 9 feet. Their canopy can reach 135 feet across.
- Due to its size an oak tree requires a large amount of water to survive. One mature oak tree can absorb 50 gallons of water each day.
- Trees make great hiding places! King Charles II hid in an oak tree at Boscobel House whilst escaping Roundheads after the battle of Worcester in 1651.
- Robin Hood is reputed to have taken refuge in the great canopy of the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, hiding from the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Major Oak survives to this day and is estimated to be between 800 and 1,000 years old.
- Oak trees are native to England and feature heavily in our history, legends and folklore – maybe that’s why we have a soft spot for them.
- The oak was sacred to the Celtic people and amongst other things, they made magic wands from the wood.



Grow a Tree from Seed

Look inside to see what you need to do

How would you like to help grow a forest?

The National Forest is a new Forest being created for the nation in the heart of England. It covers 200 square miles and includes parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. Since planting began in 1991 more than 8.5 million new trees have taken root but we need to plant another 8 million to achieve our target. That is why your support is so important.

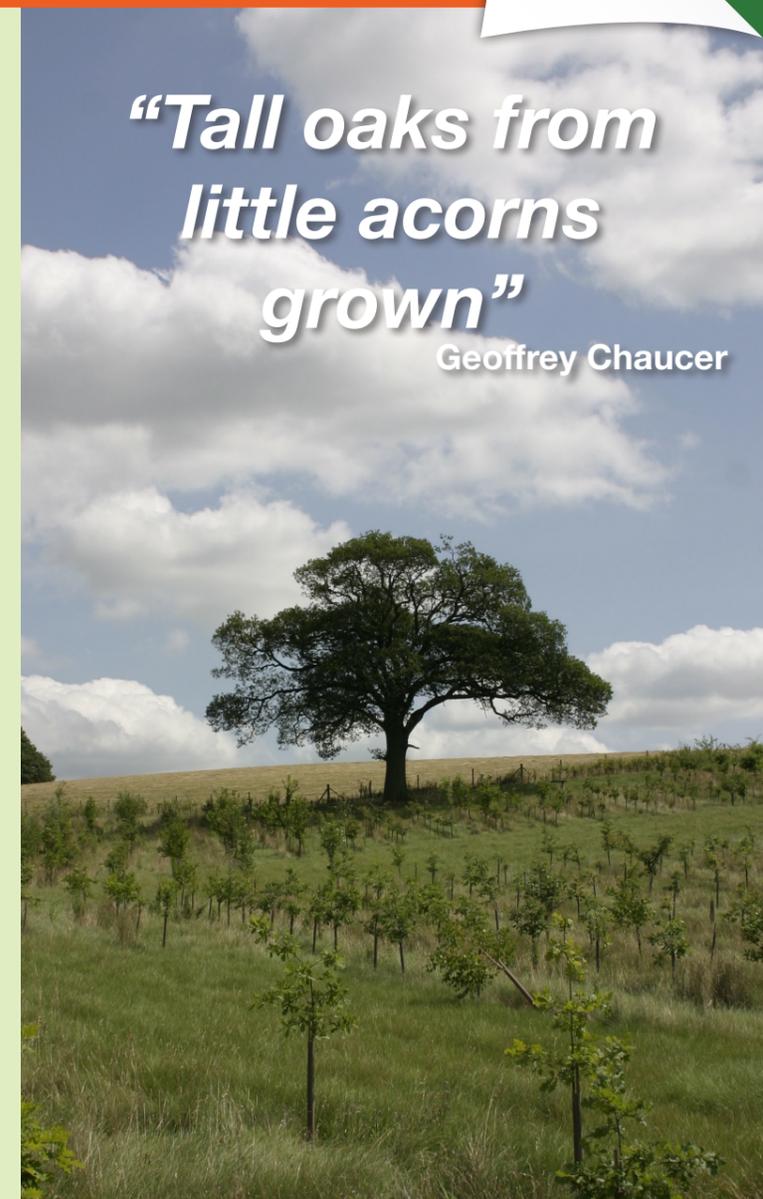
It’s easy to get involved – all you have to do is collect a few of the acorns that are around in the autumn, plant them and watch them grow! The information inside this leaflet explains what you need to do to grow your own oak tree. Why not get together with family and friends to collect your acorns, follow the progress of your seedlings as they grow and finally plant the young trees in The National Forest.

It takes around two years to grow an oak that is large enough to plant outside. You will then have an opportunity to join us on one of our tree planting days to plant your seedling in the Forest.

Enclosed with this pack is a seedling pledge form – please remember to return this to us so that we know how many trees to expect and where to send your planting event invitation.

“Tall oaks from little acorns grown”

Geoffrey Chaucer



Why Oak trees?

The National Forest plants mainly native broadleaved species such as oak, birch, hazel and lime. The oak is a very important tree because of its value for wildlife and timber production, and is the most widely planted in The National Forest.

Each oak tree can support 250 species of insects, birds and other wildlife and once mature, forms a key part of the structure of a mature woodland.

“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



More information on the Grow a Tree from Seed scheme can be found on our website: www.nationalforest.org/involved/seed.php

The National Forest Company

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How to grow a tree from seed

You can help create The National Forest by growing young oaks from acorns you have collected yourself. Why not have a go by following these simple steps?

Step 1

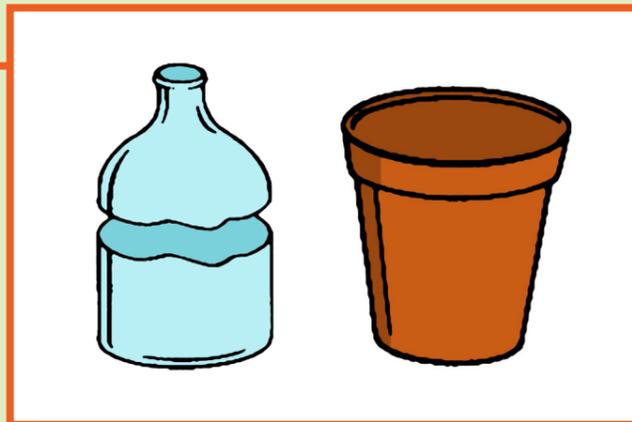
During October and November, collect the acorns you are going to grow. Try to collect from the healthiest trees you see, so that yours will get a good start. Also try to collect from mature trees in groups, not isolated individuals.

Remember to send in your Seedling Pledge.



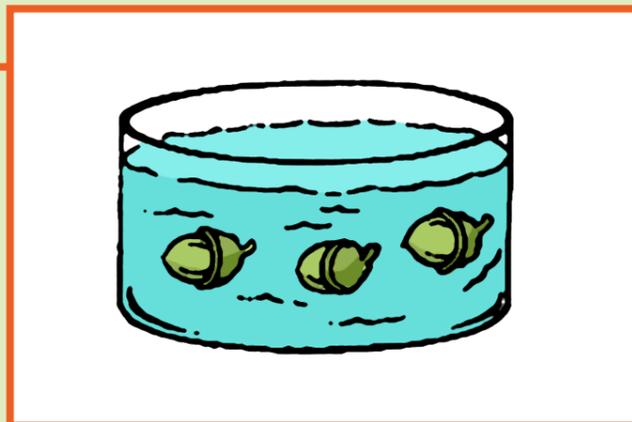
Step 2

Consider what sort of container to grow them in. You can use a plant pot, but why not try using a large yoghurt pot or cut the bottom off an empty plastic bottle?



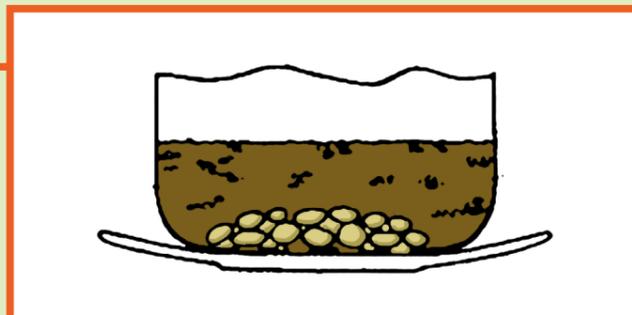
Step 3

Soak the acorns overnight in warm water. Then carefully peel off the outer shell. Try not to damage the inner seed (called the kernel), as this is the part of the nut that will grow into a tree.



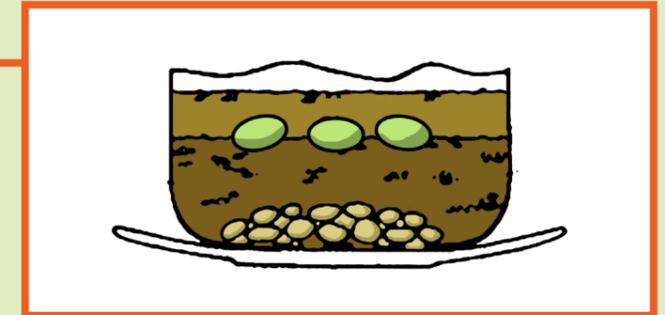
Step 4

Cut some holes in the base of your pot and put a few stones at the bottom to help with drainage. Then put in soil or peat free compost so that the pot is about two-thirds full. Finally, stand the pot on a saucer.



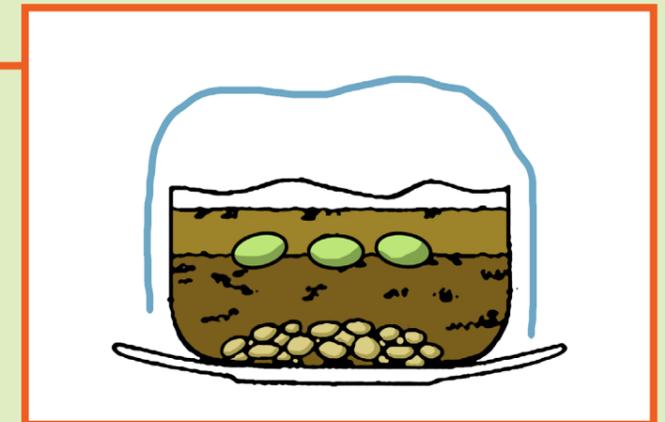
Step 5

Place three acorns in your pot (a single acorn may not survive) and cover with a layer of soil. Cover your pot with a plastic bag and put it in a sunny place on the windowsill.



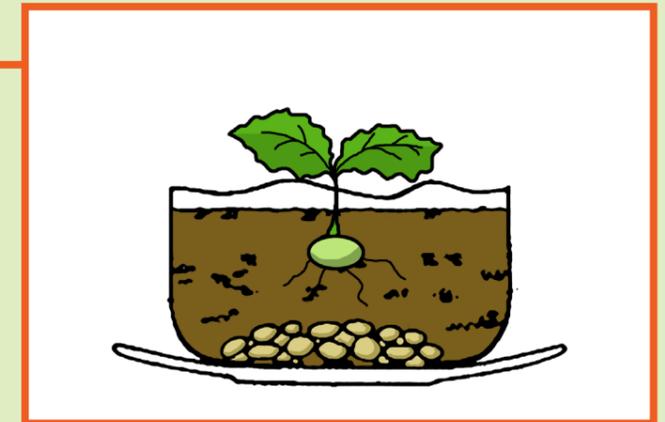
Step 6

As soon as you see the seedlings appear (this is called germination) remove the bag. Make sure you water the seedlings once or twice a week and keep the soil moist.



Step 7

When the seedlings grow to a height of approximately 75mm, choose the seedling that looks the strongest as this has the greatest chance of survival. Remove the other two seedlings, which could then be replanted into new pots. The remaining seedling now has more room to grow.



Step 8

Keep watering your plant and place the seedling and container outside in the summer. The following autumn, the sapling can be moved to a bigger pot. It then needs to grow for one, or maybe two, more years, after which time it will be strong enough to be planted out – either in The National Forest, your own garden or school grounds.

Don't forget to send us your seedling pledge so that we can keep track of the number of trees being grown and can invite you to a future planting event.

