



## Re-Oak California: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q: “A friend of mine told me she was sharing this info via my NextDoor/Social Media/Facebook/cycling group, etc. IS it still OK to spread the word?”**

YES! Please spread the word. We still need acorns, and we still need collectors. There’s also planting to be done during the winter, so getting the word out is very helpful.

**Q: “Will you accept acorns from anywhere in the state? How about acorns from outside the California?”**

Yes, we are accepting acorns from all over California, but none from outside the state, please. When collecting your acorns, make sure you use your datasheet to capture exact location and other important information. That way, we can ensure the correct species are re-planted in the right locations.

**Q: “Where should I collect? Can I collect from my favorite park? Can you recommend locations?”**

Most people are collecting from their tree (or a neighbor’s after asking permission). Some are finding trees and asking the landowner. Someone even asked a winery for permission to collect in the parking lot! In general, collecting from parks or other public lands is not a good fit for this project; you cannot collect without their permission, and that can be difficult to obtain.

**Q: “Are last year’s acorns worth keeping? They’ve been in a container” or “We have seedlings. Can we dig them up and send them to you?”**

Due to the ambitious scale of this project, only acorns from this year’s crop can be used. If you have seedlings, consider letting them grow as part of your own re-oak project!

**Q: “I sent a question to [acorns@CNPS.org](mailto:acorns@CNPS.org), and haven’t heard back yet. Don’t you love me?”**

The acorns email address receives hundreds of questions; staff and volunteers are doing their best to answer all of them. Thankfully, the people who have signed up to collect are a patient and creative lot, and they’re doing a great job of self-organizing. Thank you!



**Q: “Can I plant acorns myself right now?”**

Yes! Planting local acorns on your own land is easy and helpful. You can find tips at [www.cnps.org/acorns](http://www.cnps.org/acorns)...but basically, you just plant your acorn, protect it from herbivores and weeds, and set aside a few centuries to enjoy the ever-expanding shade of your noble oak.

**Q: “Which species should we collect?” “How can we prevent wind-borne hybridization with non-natives?” “Do we really want to introduce interior live oak to the area?” “Won't moving acorns across physically separated microclimates undo millennia of local evolution?”**

Acorns of all native oak species are needed. This project is designed to produce ‘restoration grade’ oaks, so we are careful to provide only locally-derived seedlings. This is why it’s critical that you note the location of the trees from which you collect. We are following CNPS policy for the preservation of local biodiversity, in order to maintain locally coevolved relationships.

**Q: “How will you address concerns about the wildlife that depends on these acorns?”**

Standard practice for responsible seed collecting is to take no more than 5% of seed production. Please be sure to leave enough for wildlife, and for self-seeding.

**Q: “Can we still collect?” “Is there a deadline?” “Should we stop collecting after the rains?” “How many acorns should we collect?”**

The only deadline is that imposed by nature: there may still be acorns around, but soon they will be dead or sprouted. If collecting wet acorns, dry them right away and place them in a paper bag; ship them as soon as you can. Collect as many as will fit in a gallon-size Ziploc bag.

**Q: “Since our four bags are from the same property, can we put all four bags in one box to mail?” “Do you have any drop-off sites, or are you accepting by mail only?”**

We want to keep individual trees separate if possible, but please put all your bags in a single box for shipping. We are accepting acorns by mail only. See the instruction page for details on collection protocols, and for the shipping address.

**Q: “Where will acorns be planted?” “Do you need nurseries to chip in?” “Will you accept seedlings?”**

We are working with a horticultural facility in southern California to produce seedlings for



distribution. In addition, we hope to offer one-day workshops for schools and nonprofits, exploring oak biology and cultivation. Please feel free to use our guidelines to grow your own seedlings, and stay tuned for announcements of planting days.