

We Grow Trees Challenge Instructions

1. **Collect Acorns:** Collect acorns in mid to early Fall (September - October), ideally while they are still on the trees. Acorns should be brownish with slight hints of green. You will know an acorn is ready for picking when the cap can be easily removed.
2. **Float Test:** Perform a float test to ensure acorns are viable. Place acorns in a glass of water. If they sink, they are good to be grown. If they float, it may mean a worm has burrowed in it and created an air hole. Discard it if that is the case.
3. **Overwintering:** Dry your acorns and place into the baggie with sawdust provided by OCIS (you can fit lots of acorns in one bag). Add a bit of water to make wood shavings moist and place the baggie into the fridge (or unheated garage). Periodically check on acorns to ensure the mixture is not too dry or wet and add water as needed. If you notice mold on the acorns, rinse them and put them back in the bag.
4. **Emerging Roots:** Once your acorn has formed roots (will likely be in early 2025), you can plant it into the pot provided by OCIS. Place the acorn(s) in soil (one per pot), root down, just below the surface. Place the pot in a sunny area.
*Email sustainability@ontariotechu.ca if you would like your pot filled with soil.
5. **Care until Planting at Campus Farm:** Ensure the soil stays damp until planting at the campus farm in the spring. Keep an eye out for an email for a scheduled planting date (weather dependent). If possible, place your pots outside 1-2 weeks prior to the planting date to acclimate the trees to the outdoors.

We Grow Trees Challenge Timeline

September - October: Look for acorns and pickup supplies from OCIS office or Charles Hall Library

October - February: Overwinter acorns

February-ish: Plant acorns in pot (once they have sprouted)

May 2025: Planting event held at campus farm (exact date to be determined closer to)

Email sustainability@ontariotechu.ca if you have any questions.