

# White Oak

## *Quercus alba*

Some oak trees live to be over 450 years old. Although called a white oak, it usually has a light gray scaly bark or sometimes a black furrowed bark. Acorns are the fruit housing the seed eaten by squirrels, rabbits, deer, other animals, birds, insects, and even people.

The White Oak was here to welcome the early settlers to the East Coast. In the early days, the White Oak was used for durable bottom logs in cabins, to make ships, and most importantly for wagons. As a major component of wagon wheels, it carried the settlers even further west and supplied both the North and South with the means to transport artillery and other heavy items used in the Civil War.

Today, White oak is preferred for uses ranging from furniture, cabinets, caskets and many other items. Being a very dense strong wood it is a favorite for industrial

uses such as fence posts, railroad ties, and mine timbers. The wood of the white oak holds liquids well and is currently the major source of wood for whiskey barrels.



This sign provided by Polk County Fresh Water Supply District #2