

seeds of oak

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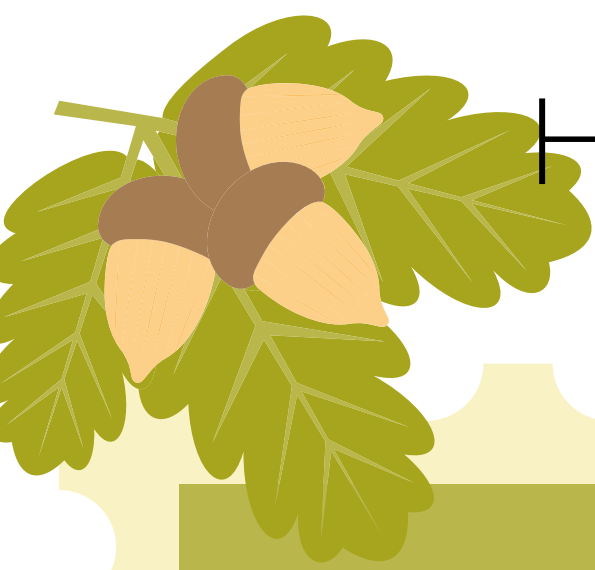
- **According to the State Forest Management Institute, oak forests in Lithuania occupy 2.3% (2020) of the total area of all stands (forests), or 48,111 hectares [1].**

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- **The oak tree is considered to be a symbol of strength and sturdiness, a tree-foundation. It has been respectfully protected in Lithuania for centuries. As early as 1420, it was forbidden to cut down old oak trees. Efforts were often made to plant oak trees on homesteads. More than 100 oak trees in Lithuania have been declared natural monuments. They are up to 30 m tall and 2.5 m in diameter. The oldest oak tree in Lithuania is the Stelmužės Oak (Zarasai District). The largest oak park in Lithuania is the Kaunas Oak Park (Žaliakalnis). It is also the largest urban oak grove in Europe, and the largest oak alley is the Smalininkai Oak Alley.**

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- **The Dionysius Poška Baublys Museum is built in the trunk of an oak tree, which is 4.5 m in diameter and 1000 years old.**



How do tree seeds grow?



•Each seed is made up of 3 main parts: the germ, the nutrients and the hull.As the seed germinates, only one germ grows.Only the germ cells are able to divide and produce new cells, which, like bricks, are used to build the body of the plant.The seed hull swells before germination and soon ruptures as the developing germ expands, then detaches from the seed and rots. The germ sucks in and nourishes the growing cells. The nutrients are consumed and the growing seed germ develops into a young sprout with a root, stem and leaves.



Use of acorns



- **Acorns are used to make acorn coffee, which is used as a coffee substitute or simply as a hot drink.**
- **In some countries, acorns are used for food, especially for the digestion of conventional foods. Grated into flour, they are used for baked goods. As acorns are high in starch, in Korea they are used to make an edible starch gel called mook. Acorns are sometimes used to extract edible oil.**
- **Acorns are fed to pigs, sheep and poultry.**