Grow On!

Newsletter for MG SPROUTS Families

Session Six: The Tree Farmer

Dear _____:

Today I learned all about Grandfather and his tree farm! Grandfather took very good care of his trees so that they would grow strong. Sometimes he had to trim them. Sometimes he had to give them some water. He protected those trees from insects and fire. Grandfather explained how those trees were made into furniture, musical instruments, paper, and all kinds of things that we use, and that they helped keep our air and water clean.

We learned that we can be good stewards, just like Grandfather. By taking good care of our lawns and gardens, we can take care of our earth and air and water, too. We made a calendar to help us remember when to do certain gardening tasks. Our yards and gardens help make our community a nice place to live. We got to plant an acorn, too!

Our Master Gardener leaders told us to bring home our acorn. It's in a plastic pot with a clear bag around it. We should remove the bag and place the pot outside in a cool spot with indirect light. Every couple of days, I need to give it a drink of water, just enough to keep the potting soil moist. In a few weeks, the acorn will germinate! As it grows, I can plant it in the yard (but I better make sure I have enough room for it first!)

Thanks for taking me to SPROUTS!

Love,

_____ (name)

I had a lot of fun today at MG SPROUTS! This was our last session. Maybe I can find a friend who will want to go to SPROUTS the next time it is offered!

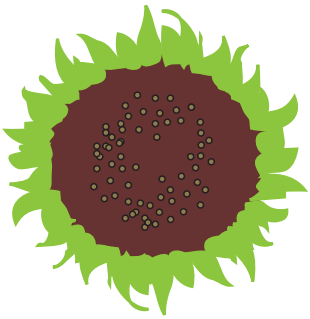
_____

Red Oak Trees

Northern Red Oak is a deciduous tree with medium texture and a medium to fast growth rate. It develops a rounded crown with age. Leaves are alternate, oval or obovate, up to 8.5 inches long and 6 inches wide, with seven to 11 lobes. They are lustrous green above and yellow-green below. Fall color is usually yellow-brown but may be russet-red.

Landscape Uses: Northern Red Oak is used as a large specimen shade tree. It transplants readily because of a negligible taproot. It needs acidic, sandy loam, well-drained soils and full sun for best development. Northern Red Oak tolerates dry conditions and urban sites.

For more information about Northern red oaks, see UGA Cooperative Extension Publication, Native Plants for Georgia Part I: Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines (B 987), available online at http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B987#RedOak



MG SPROUTS
Horticulture Activities for Kids

MG Sprouts Horticulture Activities for Kids. © UGA Extension

UGA Extension Publications

Each edition of the MG Sprouts Grow On! newsletter has featured publications from UGA Extension on a variety of topics. You can browse through and download over 800 free publications or order one of our popular For Sale publications, including the *So Easy to Preserve* cookbook and the *Turfgrass Management* mobile application.

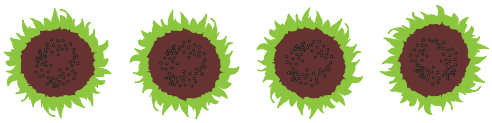
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/

My SPROUTS Journal ideas...

Do you have a favorite tree at home or in your neighborhood? What does it look like?

What kinds of animals use the oak tree for food?

What does your family do to take good care of your garden or lawn?



If your child enjoyed
The Tree Farmer, may we suggest:

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert
ISBN-13: 978-0152053048

UGA Cooperative Extension in Your County

We have enjoyed having your child participate in the MG SPROUTS program. We hope this is just the beginning of a lifelong enjoyment of wonder and learning for your child.

Your county goverment's support of UGA Extension makes programs like MG Sprouts, 4-H, Walk Georgia, and many others possible in our county. Without UGA Extension volunteers like Master Gardeners, we would not be able to offer the range of educational programs that we do. Their support is invaluable to our community.

Any time our office can be of assistance to you or your family, whether you have questions about water quality, lawns and gardens, or you just want to meet your county Extension agent, e-mail us, call us, or drop by.

Our office is located at:

The University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. UGA Extension offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability.

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.