



This Is White Oak Leaf



This rather crumpled leaf is from the White Oak. Its leaves are four to six inches long,

rounded on the tips. The acorn is about one and one fourth inches long.

Majestic White Oak Is One Of County's Most Imposing Trees

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles on the trees that grow in Santa Cruz county.

By Wally Trabing

For members of the "spit and argue club" here is some food for thought. There are more than 70 types in the oak tribe and not a few of these can be found in this county.

The tree pictured, according to forest authorities we know and tree books we read, is a White Oak.

When you get down to the fine border lines of scientific division, it has two names: Quer-

cus lobata, commonly called the Valley oak, the White oak, the California White oak (by Californians), the Swamp oak, or the Weeping oak; and quercus garryana, commonly called the Oregon White oak (by Oregonians), Garry oak, Western White oak or Pacific Post oak.

This oak is native to the Pacific coast range and likes, in fact, practically insists that a mountain sits between it and the sea.

Each year this oak loses its leaves and becomes a nude giant whose muscular limbs draw mighty silhouettes against the sky.

One of the largest of the White Oaks is found in West Virginia. This monarch has a girth of 30 feet and rises 165 feet into the air.

Another one in San Benito valley, California, yields a ton of acorns every year.

The wood is tough and weighs 47 pounds per cubic foot. White oak is used widely to make beer kegs. When expensive liquors are "aged in wood" it is usually the White oak. Many a sailing vessel had its bottom made of oak. Generally, however, it is not considered a "timber" product except for specialized hardwood products.

Probably the gigantic size of this tree and its lack of leaves in the winter are its most identifiable features. It is not native to the United States alone. The English make a great "to do" over the species. There is

This magnificent White Oak covers a 75-foot spread across the yard of H. F. Knudsen, 3600 Main street, Soquel. Knudsen's father sent him a tiny acorn through the mail from Denver in 1922 and this is the result. The tree house up there is no tiny shack. The tree's trunk is six feet four inches in diameter.

a close relation somewhere. It is also grown in the valleys throughout California and much of the U.S.

It is a spacious tree. Its roots dig for water as deep as 40 feet. It changes in looks as it grows from a young tree to maturity.

Its acorns were eaten by the Indians who roasted them or soaked them in water.