



123 Huntington Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203.974.8500
Toll free: 1.877.855.2237
fax: 203.974.8502
caes@ct.gov
<https://portal.ct.gov/caes>

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 2, 2025

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joseph P. Barsky, Research Technician / Forester
Department of Environmental Science & Forestry
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Phone: 203-974-8540
Email: Joseph.Barsky@ct.gov

Dr. Scott C. Williams, Chief Scientist
Department of Environmental Science & Forestry
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Phone: 203-974-8609
Email: Scott.Williams@ct.gov

Mixed Observations for the 2025 Acorn Crop in Connecticut

New Haven, CT – Happy Oaktober! The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is reporting a highly variable year for acorn production in Connecticut. The findings are compiled from observations on 575 individual red and white oak trees at twelve locations throughout the state.

This fall, a bumper or mast crop of acorns is occurring among red oak trees in the northwestern corner of the state, while areas in the northeastern sections are experiencing a good acorn crop. The central and southern regions of the state are experiencing an expected widespread crop failure, following a bumper crop in those areas last year. “Hikers may find some trails in Litchfield County this fall to be completely covered in acorns,” according to Joseph Barsky, lead forest researcher for the study.

White oak trees continued to exhibit crop failures across all areas of Connecticut, a concerning trend which has been observed for the last decade. “Prolonged periods without adequate white oak acorn production are leading to fewer seedlings becoming established in our forested areas,” Barsky explained. “Over time, this shift will lead to a reduced component of white oak in our future forest and negatively impact the existing ecological processes and associated industries that depend on white oak.” Once a common component of our forests, white oaks have diminished across the landscape in recent years due to repeated insect defoliation and drought.

The Oak Mast Surveillance Program is a collaborative effort among several states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, who have completed their annual acorn assessments, and have reported average red oak acorn crops in 2025. Except for Virginia, which had a good white oak acorn crop, all other states reported fair to poor white oak acorn crops.

###

Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer