Bur Oak

*Quercus macrocarpa*

Fall Color

Newly emerged leaves, corky stems
Bur Oak
*Quercus macrocarpa*

Family: Fagaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: woody
Leaf Color: dark green
Fall Color: dull yellow to yellowish brown
Flower Time: spring, not significant
Flower Color: not significant
Fruit: acorn with a deep cap that has a fringe
Light: full sun
Moisture: well-drained
USDA Hardiness Zones: 3-8

**Landscape Value:**
This very large native tree can reach 70-80’ in height and slightly wider in spread making it too large for many gardener’s yards. Where there is the space, however, this tree makes an excellent native shade tree. Because it is difficult to transplant it is advantageous to start with small plants. Very tolerant in particular of Iowa’s soils, trees will do well in a variety of well-drained, moist soils and has been reported to tolerate the tough conditions along streets (that dreaded spot between the sidewalk and curb) better than most oaks—if it fits in that spot!

**Insect/Disease Issues:**
Many insects and diseases affect thracnose, powdery mildew but are major

**Nativity:**
Eastern North America

**Location in the Garden:**
Children’s Garden

**Notes:**
Though no specific oak species has been named, it is often the bur oak that gets the honor of representing the oak as Iowa’s state tree. This tree is truly majestic as it ages.

**Months of Interest:**

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