



History & Disease:

The Bur Oak is native of Canada and may be the oldest ancestor of the White Oaks. The name *Quercus* comes from the Celtic language and means "tree above others". *Macrocarpa* comes from the Greek work "makros" which means large and "karpos" which means fruit. The Bur Oak was able to spread widely throughout the eastern United States because it's thick bark protected it from fire and it's deep tap root system allowed it to survive droughts.

Insect & Fungal Pests: For the most part, the Bur Oak is very resistant to disease. However, Leaf Shredders are pests that cause defoliation in Bur Oaks and Galls can lay eggs in the dormant buds.



References

- "The Trees of Miami University" Information Booklet and map.
- "Species Profile of the Bur Oak" by Mary Ann Riley. Kemptville College
- Grimm, W.C. 2002. *Illustrated Book of Trees*. Stackpole Books.

Answer to question: It is the largest! The acorn of the Bur Oak can grow between 3/4" to 2" long!

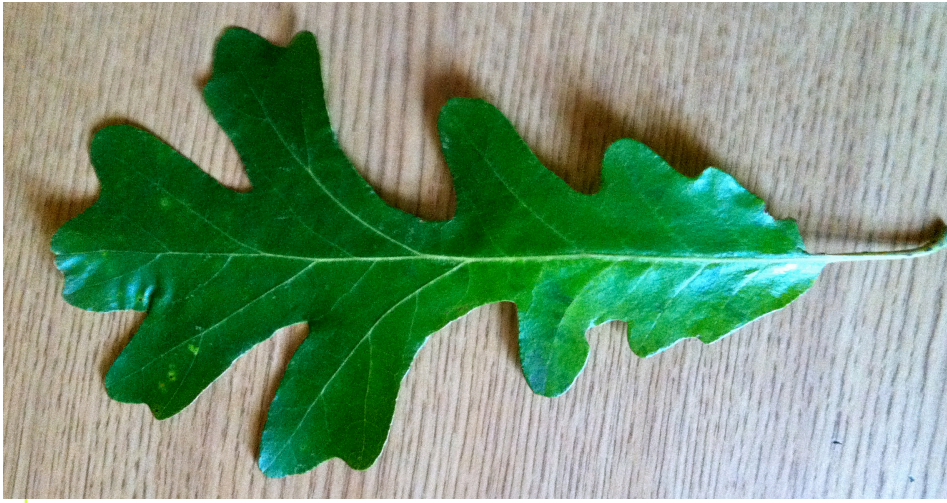


Bur Oak Tree

Quercus Macrocarpa
Fagaccae. Beech Family



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Tree Presentation



Identifying Features of the Bur Oak

Geographic Range:

The Bur Oak can be found in the Deciduous Forest Region that covers most of the Midwest and Great Plains States and southern Canada. It generally stands alone where it can enjoy full to partial sun. Although it prefers moist, but well-drained soil, its deep tap root system allows it to survive in dry soils, clay and limestone, making it a good choice for urban areas and parks.

Size:

This massive tree stands tall at heights of 60 to 80 feet with a 2-4 feet diameter trunk. However, it can grow to a maximum height of about 150 feet tall with a 7 feet wide trunk in the north-central states.

Leaf Characteristics:

Symmetrical leaves are evenly divided into 5 to 9 lobes with a deep mid-leaf sinus. Leaf venation is pinnate, having one main vein with smaller veins extending out from the midrib. The top of the leaf is a dark shiny green in the summer and yellow to brown in the autumn. The bottom of the leaf is dull and has white hairs or Stipules.

Fruit Characteristics:

The fruit that this tree has is an acorn. In fact, the Bur Oak has the largest acorns of all the Oak species. It is covered with a rough prickly husk or "Bur" cap and is filled with a sweet, white nut that is a favorite of the American black bears, squirrels and deer. Acorns are grown every few years rather than annually to fool predators.

Question:

How is the acorn of the Bur Oak different from other oak trees?

Stem Characteristics:

The stem of a Bur Oak's leaf is in obovate or egg shaped and flat. It is narrow at the point where it is attached to the stalk.

Bark: The Bur Oak can be identified as part of the White Oak group by its medium to dark gray bark which features long, slender clefts which looks like scales. An interesting fact about the bark is that it is so thick that it is actually fire-resistant!

Flower Characteristics:

Male and female flowers grow on this tree, which is called monoecious. The flowers appear in the spring when the new leaves form. The female flowers grow in clusters at the leaves axil (between branch and stem) and the male flowers form skinny, drooping catkins at the base of the new shoots. The flowers are distributed by the wind.