

RedButte



# ARBOR DAY

April 25, 2025



**Bur Oak**  
*Quercus macrocarpa*

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**HEIGHT:** 60'-80' • **WIDTH:** 40'-60' • **WATER:** Low Water • **SUN:** Full Sun



The Bur Oak is a tough, long-lived tree native to central and eastern North America. It thrives in drought, extreme cold, and a wide range of soils, making it one of the hardiest native oaks.

Long, yellow catkins (dangling clusters of male flowers) and small, reddish female blooms appear before the tree's large, lobed, dark green leaves in early spring. In autumn, these leaves turn a warm golden color.

Bur Oaks also grow the largest acorns of any oak tree in North America. They can be up to two inches long and sit in fringed caps that look like little hats. That's also where the tree gets its name—"bur" means a rough or prickly covering.

Bur Oaks are great for animals, too. Birds, squirrels, bugs, and butterflies love living in or around this tree. Bur Oaks are often grown in cities because they can handle pollution and tough soil. Their big, shady branches also help cool down streets and parks on hot days.

These trees grow only about one foot per year but can live for 200 to 300 years. So next time you see a large oak tree with chunky acorns, you might be looking at a Bur Oak—the gentle giant of the forest!

