

Bur Oak



Tree Type

This tree is deciduous and will lose its foliage for the winter.

Planting

Plant away from structures as the tree is sensitive to root zone disturbance caused by construction. Do not use high-nitrogen fertilizer as it will harm the tree.

Watering

Bur Oak is the most drought resistant of all oak species but still needs to be watered regularly and deeply to get established. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

Prune in late fall or early spring. Remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches.

Preferences

They prefer full sun which means it requires at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight. The oak grows best in moist, well-drained soil but can grow in acidic, alkaline, clay, loamy, sandy, well-drained or wet soil.

Attributes

This tree grows to a height of 70 to 80 ft tall with a spread of 36 to 48 ft. At maturity, a Bur Oak has a rounded shape with a broad top of heavy spreading branches. It is slow growing and is moderately shade tolerant. The wood is heavy, hard, tough, durable, rich brown; used for furniture, interior finish, flooring, structural material, and railroad ties. Bur Oak can be used as an urban tree as it is resistant to air pollution and car exhaust but does not handle salt spray very well. As Bur Oak is a type of white oak rather than red, it is resistant to Oak Wilt and can be treated with fungicide if infected.

Wildlife Value

Bur Oak acorns are the preferred food for wood ducks, wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, rabbits, mice, squirrels, and other rodents.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site.
Find help at mndnr.gov/treecare.

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or gopherstateonecall.org to check for underground lines.

AFTER PLANTING

Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.



HOW TO PLANT A BAREROOT TREE

- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.

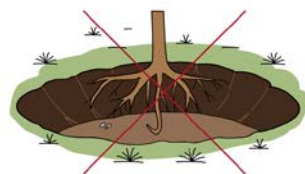
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.

- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.

FIRST WOODY ROOT



- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



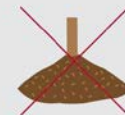
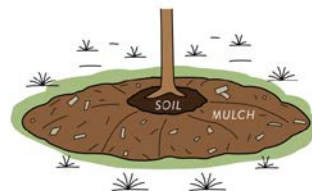
- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.



- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.

- 7 Water entire backfill area.

- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfill area, keeping mulch away from trunk.



DON'T CREATE A MULCH VOLCANO. IT CAN ROT YOUR TREE.