



BUR OAK *Quercus macrocarpa* Michx.



Bur oak is found in the southern two-thirds of the state and is locally plentiful in central Maine. It is quite common along the Sebasticook River, the lower Penobscot basin, and east into Hancock County. It grows in low, rich bottomland, and is rarely found on dry soil. It has a broad top of wide, spreading branches. The trunk is often clear of limbs for two-thirds or more of its length. It attains a height of 60–70 feet, and a diameter of 2–3 feet.

Very durable, hard, heavy and strong, bur oak is used for for cabinetry, barrels, hardwood flooring and fence posts.





Bur oak twigs have ridges of corky bark, a characteristic that is not shared by any of our other native oaks.

The **bark** is grayish, deeply furrowed and broken into plate-like irregular scales.

The **leaves** are roughly violin-shaped in outline, with rounded lobes that are not generally as deeply cut as the white oak. The upper end of the leaf is widest. They are alternate, dark green and shiny on the upper surface, pale green or silvery-white on the lower.



The **flowers** appear in May when the leaves are partly formed.

The **fruit**, which is edible, matures the first year and is usually solitary. It varies in size and shape. The acorn is about 3/4 inch long, and about half enclosed by the cup. The margin of the cup is fringed with long, hair-like scales. The **twigs** have corky wings or ridges.

The **wood** is very durable, hard, heavy and strong. It is used for the same purposes as white oak.



AREA OF OCCURRENCE

MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
Bur Oak Circumference: 176" Height: 86' Crown Spread: 74' Location: West Gardiner

