

# Native oaks are tough urban trees for the future

The demand for tough native trees that will flourish in landscapes with minimal care sets the stage for greater use of North American oaks in urban settings. Their proven ability to survive and thrive across a wide range of growing conditions and geographic regions makes oaks among the most promising of urban trees to plant in anticipation of climate change. Two urban-adaptable species are featured:

**Scarlet Oak** (*Q. coccinea*) is loved for its deep and brilliant shades of red fall color. Summer foliage is dark green and glossy. Its shape is similar to that of red oak, but more upright, becoming more oval than round as it matures. Mature height at 30 years under average landscape conditions is about 50 feet, with a spread of about 40 feet. (Zone 4)



**Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is the state tree of Iowa and occupies a wide natural range that covers much of the Midwest and into Canada. It can be found in landscapes from coast to coast, thriving in climates hot and cold. In summer, the dark green upper surface of the uniquely shaped leaves contrasts with lighter undersides to create a shimmering effect in the breeze. Fall color is yellow to yellow-brown. Probably the hardiest of oaks, this USDA Zone 3 tree tolerates city conditions and adapts well to dry, sandy, clay, and alkaline soils.



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