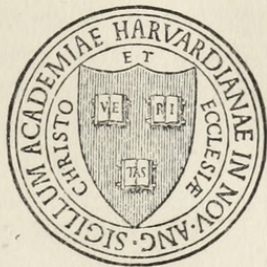


ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
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**Among the Oaks.** A walk at this time through Oak Path from a point on the Meadow Road nearly opposite the Centre Street Gate to its junction with Azalea Path on the southern slope of Bussey Hill will be found interesting and instructive. This walk passes by the first Oaks which were planted in the Arboretum. Beautiful views toward the west, including the Juniper Collection and Hemlock Hill, can be obtained from it, and before it joins Azalea Path it will pass by some of the handsomest Azaleas in the Arboretum.

Oaks have the reputation of growing slowly, and owing to this reputation are often neglected by planters. The Oaks which can be seen from Oak Path were planted in their present position from thirty to forty years ago when they were seedlings only a few inches high. The largest of them are taller with thicker trunks than other hardwood trees like Hickories, Walnuts, Elms, Maples, etc., planted at about the same time. The tallest of the Oaks planted in the Arboretum are Pin Oaks (*Quercus palustris*), and the tree with the thickest trunk is a hybrid between the White and the Burr Oaks called *Quercus Bebbiana*.

The Arboretum is too far north to make possible here a very large collection of Oaks, and of the fifty-five species which are trees in the United States it has been found possible to grow here successfully only the following: *Quercus borealis* and its variety *maxima*, *Q. Shumardii* var. *Schneckii*, *Q. ellipsoidalis*, *Q. palustris*, *Q. georgiana*, *Q. velutina*, *Q. ilicifolia*, *Q. rubra*, *Q. marilandica*, *Q. Phellos*, *Q. macrocarpa*, *Q. lyrata*, *Q. stellata*, *Q. alba*, *Q. bicolor*, *Q. montana*, and *Q. Muehlenbergii*, only seventeen species. Among the species which are shrubs



and not trees there are in the Arboretum only *Q. prinoides* and a few of the Rocky Mountain species which grow very slowly and give little promise of success. Some of the handsomest of the American Oaks, including all the species confined to the southern states, to the Pacific coast region, and to Arizona and New Mexico, cannot be seen growing in the Arboretum. No evergreen Oak can support this climate, and the Oaks of western Europe are usually short-lived in eastern America. The deciduous leaved Oaks of Japan, Korea, and northern and western China grow well in the Arboretum, and some of the species produce good crops of fruit. The largest Asiatic Oaks in the Arboretum are plants of *Quercus variabilis* and *Q. dentata* on Oak Path near its southern end. The principal collection of Asiatic Oaks, however, is on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, between Azalea Path and the Bussey Mansion. In the mixed plantation near the summit of Peter's Hill are many Oak-trees, including large plants of the Japanese species. Scattered through the Oak-plantations are several hybrids of American species, and no opportunity is lost to increase the number of these hybrids which are now known to occur between various species growing in different parts of the country. All of these hybrids are interesting, and some of them are handsome trees, like *Quercus Comptonae*, for example, a hybrid of *Quercus lyrata* and the southern Live Oak, (*Quercus virginiana*), one of the most splendid Oak trees of America but unfortunately of too tender blood to bear the rigor of a northern winter.

The early spring is one of the seasons when our northern Oaks can be studied to good advantage, for the color of the very young leaves and the amount and character of their hairy covering is different on each species. These characters are constant from year to year, and it is easier to distinguish, for example, a Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) from a Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea*) by the unfolding leaves than it is by the mature leaves, which on some individuals of these species are hardly distinguishable. The young leaves of Oak-trees, apart from their scientific interest, appeal to persons interested in the beauties of nature, for some of them are exquisite in color, and more beautiful even than in the late autumn when the leaves of several of our Oaks are brilliant features of the American forest.

**Cornus florida**, which adds so much to the woodland beauty of eastern North America from southern New England to Texas, was covered here last autumn with inflorescence-buds which appear during the summer on short stems at the end of the branchlets between the upper pair of leaves, and consist of a cluster of minute flower-buds enclosed in four scales which are brown and more or less hairy during the winter; in spring the stalk of inflorescence lengthens from a quarter of an inch to an inch and a half, and the scales which have protected the flower-buds open and expand, turn pure white and form a flat corolla-like cup from three to four inches in diameter. The enlarged pure white scales which surround the flower-clusters are the conspicuous part of the inflorescence, for the flowers themselves are minute and yellow-green. On many of the trees this spring in the neighborhood of Boston the white scales are discolored by dirty red-brown streaks which make the trees seen from a short distance appear pink. The



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