

Asiatic Oaks. The autumn colors of the leaves of some of the Asiatic Oaks in the Arboretum are interesting. Those of the Japanese *Quercus serrata* are now yellow but less clear in shade than those of *Q. conferta*, and many of them are still partly green. Nearly all the leaves of the related *Quercus variabilis* which grows in Japan and northern China are still green and later will turn yellow. Yellow and green are now the colors of the leaves of *Quercus dentata*, another tree which grows in Japan and China and remarkable in its large leaves and winter-buds. The leaves of *Quercus glandulifera*, raised from acorns gathered in northern Japan, are now deep bronze color, while those on the trees of this species from western China are still green. Green, too, are the leaves of *Quercus mongolica*, its Japanese variety *grosseserrata*, and the Korean *Q. aliena*. The leaves of American Oaks are beginning to change color and before the end of another week should be the principal feature in the autumn picture.

Liquidambar styraciflua, or the Sweet Gum, is one of the brilliant objects of the autumn when its star-shaped fragrant leaves turn to brilliant shades of scarlet. The Sweet Gum is a southern tree, finding the northern limits of its range in southern Connecticut, but it grows fairly well in Massachusetts, although it will probably never attain the size here it does under more favorable conditions. Very abundant in the maritime region of the south Atlantic and Gulf States, and in the valley of the lower Mississippi River, it has become in recent years important for its wood used in the interior finish of houses and for furniture.

Oxydendron arboreum, the so-called Sorrel-tree or Sour Wood, is another southern tree conspicuous in the autumn from the bright scarlet color its leaves take on at this season of the year, making a handsome setting for the clusters of pale capsular fruits following the white Heath-like flowers which open in August.

Viburnum prunifolium, or as it is often called the Black Haw, is perhaps the handsomest of the small trees or large shrubs in the Arboretum with scarlet leaves. A common plant on hillsides in the middle states, the Black Haw, although not a native to Massachusetts, is perfectly hardy here and well deserves general cultivation, for it is an object of beauty and interest from early spring until the beginning of winter; the leaves are thick to coriaceous, dark green and lustrous above, pale below; the flowers are white in flat clusters up to four inches in diameter, and these are followed by oval or obovoid fruit from one-half to two-thirds of an inch long, pink at first, when fully grown becoming dark blue, and covered with a glaucous bloom when ripe, and persistent on the branches until winter. The southern relative of this plant with which it has been long confused, *Viburnum rufidulum*, is a larger and a handsomer tree with thicker and more lustrous leaves which turn deep purple in the autumn. This tree, which is the largest and perhaps the handsomest of the American Viburnums, is easily recognized by the dark rusty brown felt which covers the winter-buds, and is found on the stalks of the leaves, especially on those which appear early in the season. This *Viburnum* grows in the Arboretum where it flowers and ripens its fruit, but it is doubtful if it ever becomes more than a medium-sized shrub here.



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