

enumerate merely the common and distinctive members of the pond flora, together with such of the more rare plants as have come within his experience, and to set forth certain observations as to their behavior and distribution. Much more active collecting must be done on the Cape before we can feel sure that its flora is well known, and there are few regions so near Boston which offer to the field botanist such opportunities for interesting and valuable work.

The writer wishes to express his thanks to those who have aided him in gathering data, especially to Mr. William G. Vinal, of the Providence Normal School.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

### QUERCUS IMBRICARIA MICHX. IN MASSACHUSETTS.

GEO. G. KENNEDY.

SARGENT in his manual of the trees of North America (1905) gives Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, as the northern limit of this species in the Eastern United States and says of it: "occasionally planted as an ornamental tree in the northern states and hardy as far north as Massachusetts"; and in the Sylva, vol. VIII, p. 177, calls it "one of the most beautiful of the American oaks, and a most distinct and desirable ornament of the parks and gardens of eastern America, where it is perfectly hardy as far north at least as the shores of Massachusetts Bay."

And yet it appears to be a rare tree in cultivation in this vicinity, two trees only being reported outside the Arnold Arboretum. One of these is near the entrance to the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, and the other close to Brush Hill Road in the town of Milton.

Prof. Sargent informs me that he has had two plantings of this species in the Arboretum: one in 1873, and one in 1887, and both from Meehan of Philadelphia. The Reservoir tree is of the 1873 planting and was sent with other oaks from the Arboretum to be set in the Boulevard adjacent to the Reservoir. There are several fine trees of the 1873 planting in the Arboretum; the best one is growing near the Motley house. This tree has a girth of 47 inches at three



feet from the ground, a height of about 45 feet and a spread of 50 feet. The Reservoir tree has a girth of 57 inches, a height of about 40 feet and a spread of 45 feet. The Milton tree has a girth of 51 inches, a height of about 40 feet and a spread of 41 feet.

These trees are apparently near enough together in size to belong to the same planting; but to account for the Milton tree being where it is, has puzzled many who recognized it as a stranger. It stands in an open pasture about two feet from the street wall and was exposed to public view in October, 1900, after severe roadside cutting and removal of *Viburnum* and other shrubs by the Superintendent of streets and his men. No trees have been planted along this wall for at least thirty-three years to my certain knowledge, and I believe the field has been an open pasture for many years longer.

To explain its presence on this Massachusetts highway the story has gained credence that it sprang from an acorn thrown into the field by a soldier just returned from the South. Readville camping ground is a half mile away and regiments returning from the war were often quartered here for weeks before discharge. The probable age and general appearance of the tree and its surroundings lend color to this invented story. No one imagines that the tree was planted by the hand of man. It bears fruit pretty regularly, but no one has seen any seedlings in the vicinity.

The very persistent foliage makes it a conspicuous tree in the late fall and winter: it is green till almost Christmas and its last leaves have not fallen by the first of March. It is certainly "a distinct and desirable ornament" of the country roadside and as it is owned by a lover of trees we may hope it will be carefully guarded for another century.

#### READVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

A NEW VARIETY OF *JUNCUS BALTICUS*.—*Juncus balticus* Willd., var. **melanogenus**, n. var., caulibus tenuibus teretibus 1–3 dm. altis circa 1 mm. diametro; cataphyllis basilariis flavo-stramineis lucidis; inflorescentia compactis circa 1 cm. diametro; bractea 6–11 cm. longa; sepalis 4.5–5 mm. longis subaristatis castaneis quam petalas paullo longioribus; petalis similibus albo-marginatis; antheris filamentis duplo vel triplo longioribus; capsulis ovoideis longe mucronatis 3-ocularibus atratis vel badiis perianthiis vix equantibus.



Kennedy, George G. 1912. "QUERCUS IMBRICARIA MICHX. IN MASSACHUSETTS." *Rhodora* 14, 34–35.

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