Collection. The two yellow-flowering American Currants are still the most attractive perhaps of all these plants. The better known of these, the so-called Missouri Currant (*Ribes odoratum*), is still a favorite garden plant in the United States and is found in many old gardens. It owes its popular name to the fact that it was first found on the upper Missouri River; it is now known to occur on the great plains from South Dakota to Texas. In many books this plant appears as *Ribes aureum*, but this name properly belongs to a smaller plant from the northwest and the northern Rocky Mountain region, with more slender branches, smaller flowers and black or orange-colored fruits; it appears to be extremely rare in cultivation. The two plants are growing together in the general Shrub Collection and the difference in their general appearance and the structure of their flowers can be readily seen. One of the Rocky Mountain Currants, *Ribes cereum*, with small white flowers, is as usual attractive at this season. Among Gooseberries already in flower the most interesting, perhaps, are *Ribes pinetorum*, from the mountains of New Mexico and Arizona, with bright orange red flowers, *R. niveum* from northwestern North America, with pure white flowers, *R. Cynosbati* from eastern North America, *R. stenocarpum* from western China, with white flowers, and *R. robustum*, a vigorous white flowered plant and probably a hybrid.

Early Lilacs. Two Chinese Lilacs *Syringa affinis*, with white flowers, and the lilac-colored form of this species, var. *Giraldii*, are already in flower in the Lilac Group. The white-flowered form is largely cultivated in the gardens of Pekin, and the variety comes from the Province of Shensi. The flowers of these two Lilacs are fragrant and beautiful but their open and irregular habit of growth is not attractive. They are certainly valuable, however, for the earliness of their flowers.

The Oak Collection. This is one of the best times of the year for the study of Oak-trees. The unfolding leaves are beautiful, and in their color, in the absence or presence of a hairy covering and in the character of this covering when it exists, are found characters by which the different species may often be easily recognized. These vernal characters indeed are less variable than those like the shape of the leaves and the size and shape of the fruit which are usually depended on for the recognition of Oak-trees. Unfortunately only a comparatively few species can be successfully grown in New England. Of the fifty odd species in the United States only twenty-one species and a few natural hybrids are hardy in the Arboretum. The Oaks of western Europe are hardy but are usually short-lived and unsatisfactory here; the few deciduous-leaved species of eastern Asia flourish here but no Oak-tree with evergreen leaves can be grown in the Arboretum where none of the California, Mexican or Himalayan species can be found.

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