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

cause of this discoloration is not evident, although it may have been caused by the cold of Easter Monday following several days of unseasonably hot weather. At that time, however, the inflorescence-buds of *Cornus florida* had scarcely begun to swell. Whatever the cause of the injury its occurrence this year, when there is an unusual bloom, is doubly unfortunate, for the Flowering Dogwood often loses its flower-buds entirely in New England as we are close to the northern limit of the range of distribution of this tree, which further south flowers more profusely and develops larger bud-scales. Forms of this tree with the scales which surround the flower-clusters varying in color from light to dark red (var. *rubra*) occasionally occur in southern woods, and some of these forms have been propagated by nurserymen and are popular garden plants, especially in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, where there are many specimens of the "Red-flowered Dogwood." Several plants of this variety are now blooming by the shores of Jamaica Pond in Boston where they are flowering more abundantly than usual, for the flower-buds of this variety appear to be less hardy than those of the typical form. This is unfortunate, for when the red and white-flowered trees are planted together in masses they produce when in flower a brilliant effect. There is a form of *Cornus florida* with pendulous branches, and another on which the flowers are called double from the presence of an inner row of white inflorescence-scales. These abnormal forms, however, have little to recommend them to the lovers of handsome trees. *Cornus florida* is as handsome in the autumn as it is in the spring, for the upper surface of the leaves turns bright red, the lower surface retaining its pale summer tint, and the abundant clusters of scarlet lustrous fruits are conspicuous and beautiful. Not less beautiful in autumn are two trees with bright yellow fruit which have recently been found, one near Oyster Bay, Long Island, and the other in North Carolina.

Cornus Nuttallii. This inhabitant of the coniferous forests of the coast region of the Pacific states is a near relative of *Cornus florida* and a much larger and handsomer tree, and the largest probably of all the Dogwoods, as specimens one hundred feet high occur in the Redwood forests of northwestern California. The cup under the flower-clusters formed by the scales is sometimes six inches across and therefore larger than that of any of the other Flowering Dogwoods. These scales do not, like those of *Cornus florida*, enclose during the winter the whole inflorescence but surround only its base. The unprotected flower-buds are therefore more liable to injury from cold than those of the eastern tree, and it would hardly be possible to obtain flowers anywhere in the eastern states, even if the tree could be kept alive. In England it has proved difficult to grow, although small trees have occasionally flowered there and in France.

Cornus kousa is the "Flowering Dogwood" of Japan and China, differing from the American tree in the coalition of the fruits into a solid mass, and in the inflorescence-scales which do not enclose the bud even in part, but stand out below it at right angles to the stem. They enlarge and turn creamy white before the flower-buds open, and are sharp pointed with edges which do not overlap and are smaller than those of

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