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JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

OCTOBER 11, 1923

The Arboretum is suffering from the severe drought of the last two months. September is reported to have been the driest in the last fifty-one years, and, in spite of the exceptionally heavy snowfall of the winter, the precipitation for the year is now some eight inches below the average. The result of this has been that the leaves which take on their autumn colors usually in early October have dried up and are already falling from many plants.

The Autumn Color of Leaves. It does not appear to be generally understood that the leaves on different individuals of the same species do not assume the same shades of color, and that there is considerable variation on different individuals in the time of change. This is well illustrated by the collection of Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) in the Arboretum. From many of the plants the leaves have changed color and have already fallen; from others probably one-third of the leaves have fallen and on others the leaves are as fresh and green as they were in July, all the plants growing practically under the same conditions. The Red Maple tree across the drive and opposite the entrance to the Administration Building has been during the past week the most brilliant object in the Arboretum. Landscape gardeners who may wish to use trees and shrubs for autumn effects can find useful suggestions in this tree, for it has been raised from a graft taken from a tree with leaves of exceptionally brilliant autumn color. This exceptional color has been preserved, and indicates that it is possible to multiply by grafting plants with leaves of unusually brilliant autumn color just as it is possible to propagate trees with leaves abnormally marked with yellow or

1923. "[Introduction]." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(15), 57-57. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321402>.

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