580.773
H32
COMPLIMENTARY

NEW SERIES VOL. IX

634.773
NO. 16

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

OCTOBER 23, 1923

Autumn Colors in the Arboretum. In spite of the dry summer and autumn it is doubtful if the leaves of the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum have ever assumed more brilliant colors than they have during the past two weeks; and it is doubtful, too, if there are anywhere two hundred and fifty acres which can show such a variety of autumn colors or on which the season of such colors is so long, for in the Arboretum are growing the trees and shrubs of the northern hemisphere, and the leaves of those from northeastern Asia usually change color sometime later than those of related North American plants. No pen can describe the beauty of the Arboretum in these October days, but in this number of the Bulletin a few of the plants which help to make this picture will be mentioned.

Quercus conferta, sometimes called *Q. pannonica* and the Hungarian Oak, is unusual among Oaks in the clear canary yellow color of its ripening leaves. This is the handsomest of the European Oaks which has been tried in the Arboretum in which it has grown rapidly and promises to become a large and valuable tree, distinct in its large, thick, lustrous, deeply lobed leaves. It is a common forest tree on low mountain slopes and hills in southeastern Europe where it is widely distributed and grows sometimes to a height of a hundred feet and forms a trunk from three to four feet in diameter. The Hungarian Oak is unfortunately still a rare tree in the United States, and the best specimen known to the Arboretum in the country is in the Morris Collection at Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. This tree has produced acorns for several years and plants have been raised from them here.

1923. "Autumn Colors in the Arboretum." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(16), 61-61.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321410>.

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