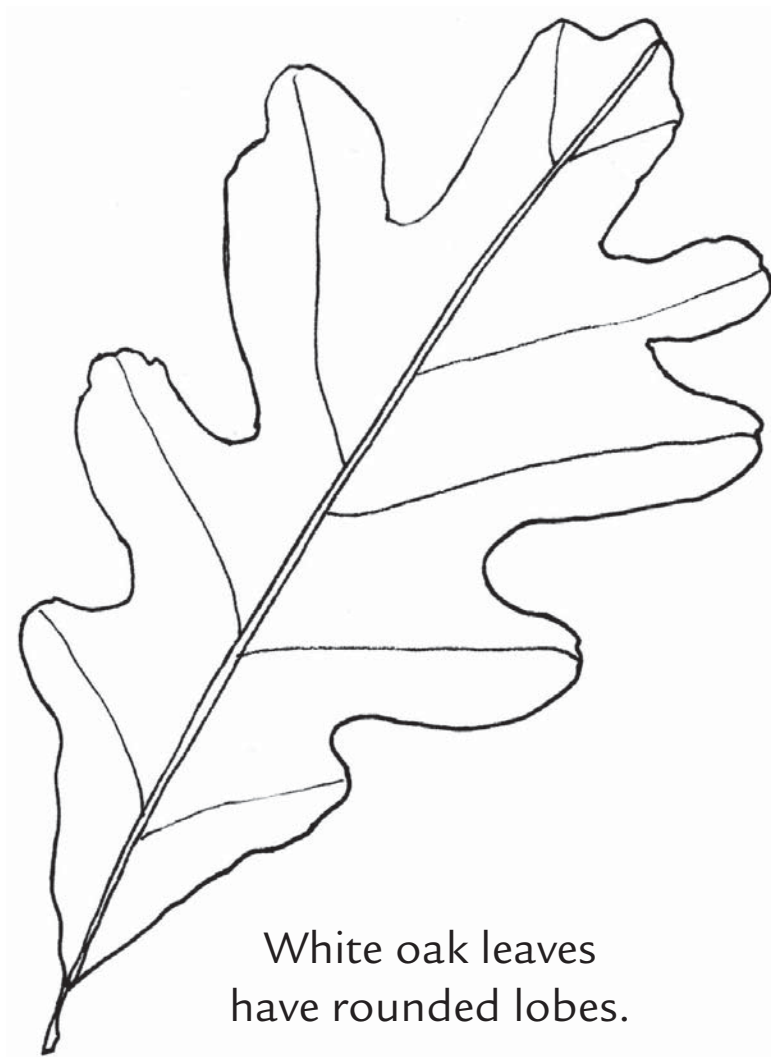


Oak

Quercus spp.

There are 40 different species of oaks at the Arnold Arboretum.

All oaks fall into 2 basic categories:
the white oak group and the red oak group.



White oak leaves
have rounded lobes.



Red oak leaves
have pointed lobes.

Unusual acorn

Bur oak acorns
have fringed caps
covering the nut.



Gray squirrels eat acorns.

Nuts about Oaks

Oak trees begin to produce acorns around their 25th year. They will produce the most acorns near their 100th year, after which the total acorn production will decrease. On average, a 100-year-old tree will produce 2,000 acorns each fall.

Do the math:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,000 \\ \times 244 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

acorns produced each fall
number of 100-year-old oak trees at the Arboretum
Answer = acorns produced each year by these trees*

Acorn nuts are eaten by deer, raccoons, turkey, mice, bears, squirrels, wood ducks, and even humans. In the wild, the chances of one acorn taking root are very slim—it is estimated that only 1 in 10,000 acorns might become a tree.

Big Tree

The Arboretum's largest oak tree is a Sargent Oak (*Quercus x sargentii*), with a trunk diameter of 13.3 feet which is more than 13 feet in circumference. The tree was grown from seed collected in 1877, and named for the first director of the Arnold Arboretum, Charles Sprague Sargent. *To find the tree:* start at the ponds, walk up Beech Path, and look for a tree with dark, furrowed bark on the left.

Letterboxing

Letterboxing is a fun way to explore the oaks at the Arboretum. For more information on letterboxing go to www.letterboxing.org.

To find the October letterbox, walk up Meadow Road past Bussey Hill Road. After that intersection, look for the **Oak Path** sign on your left. Follow Oak Path until you find a large oak tree with a huge burl on the left side of the path. The letterbox is hidden behind the trunk. Follow the directions inside and kindly leave everything as you found it.

* Answer = 488,000



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