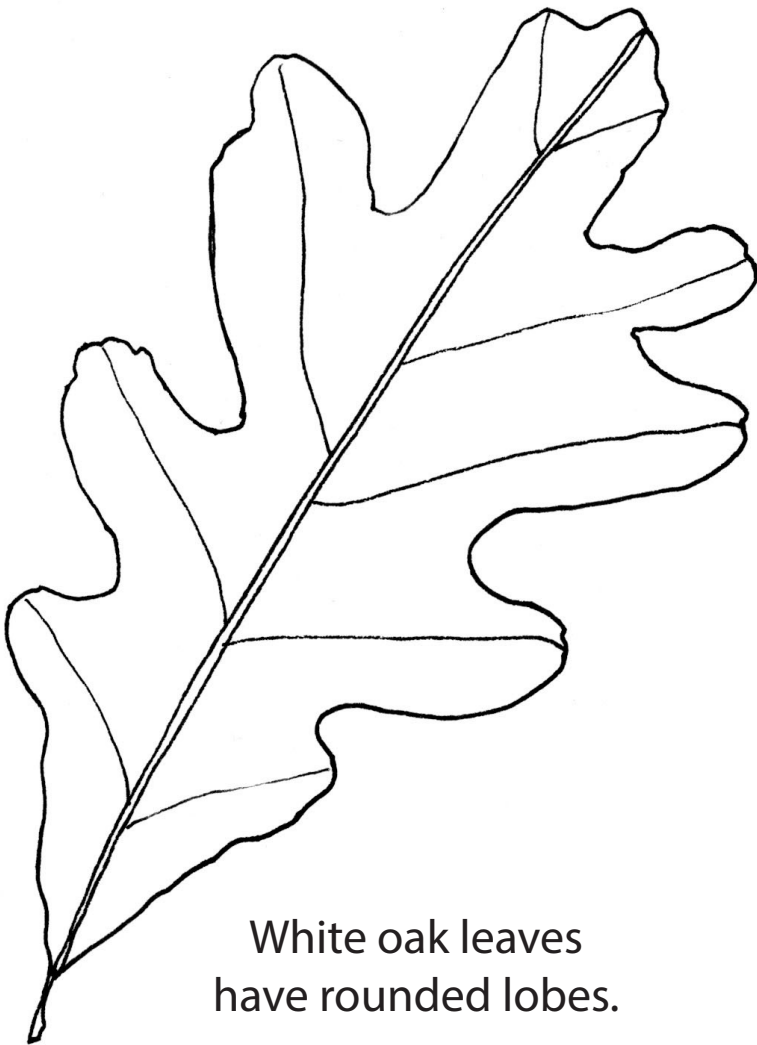


# Oak

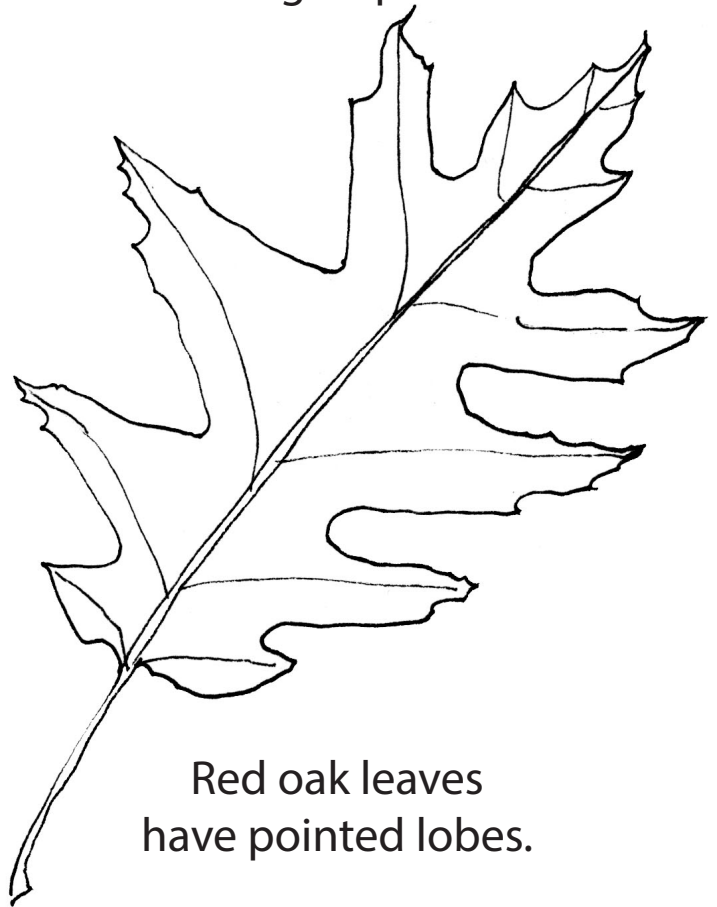
Quercus spp.

There are 43 different species of oaks at the Arnold Arboretum.

Two major categories of oaks are 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

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.

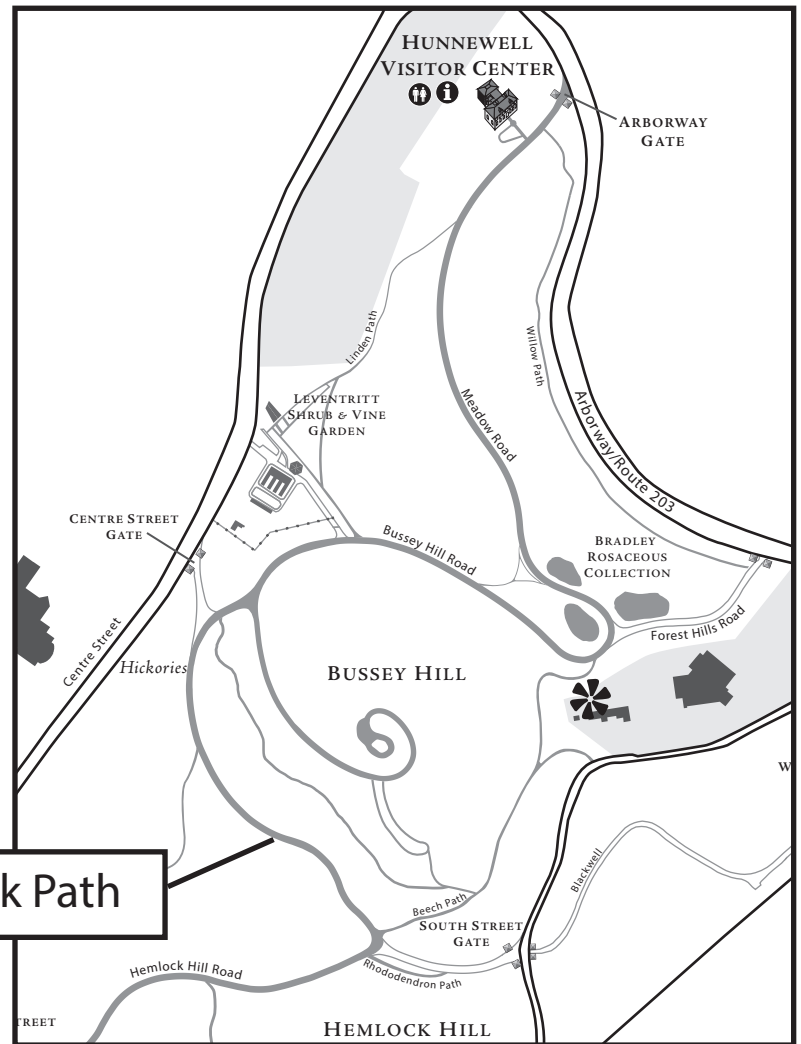
## Big Tree

The Arboretum's largest oak tree is a Sargent oak (*Quercus x sargentii*), with a trunk diameter of 4.6 feet which is more than 14 feet in circumference (5883-A). The oak was named for the first director of the Arnold Arboretum, Charles Sprague Sargent. Interestingly, the tree was grown from acorns collected in 1877 at Holm Lea, Charles Sprague Sargent's estate in Brookline, Massachusetts.

The Sargent oak is a hybrid between the English oak, *Quercus robur*, and the chestnut oak, *Quercus prinus*. The Sargent oak is extremely rare in cultivation and is only found in a few other botanical gardens and arboreta.

## Go Explore

Look for the majestic Sargent oak near the intersection of Bussey Hill Rd and Beech Path. As you wander through the Arboretum make sure to walk along Oak Path and experience the serenity that accompanies this collection of towering oaks.



The ARNOLD  
ARBORETUM  
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

125 Arborway  
Boston, MA 02130-3500  
617-384-5209 (visitor center)

[www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu)