

ARNOLDIA



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THE CASE ESTATES OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

SITUATED in Weston, about 13 miles from the Arnold Arboretum, the Case Estates have been serving the Arboretum as nursery growing areas and as experimental areas since 1942, when the first land was given by Miss Louisa Case. At this time, Miss Case gave 57 acres to Harvard University for the use of the Arboretum together with \$50,000, as a memorial to her father, James B. Case. A few years later, her sister, Miss Marion Roby Case, left 90 acres with buildings, on an adjoining property; and still later, in 1946, when Miss Louisa Case died, she left another 41 acres, both gifts accompanied by sizable endowments.

About 1945, while Miss Louisa Case was still alive, approximately 44 acres of the original gift (with buildings) were sold to the Town of Weston for school purposes. In 1958, the Town of Weston acquired by eminent-domain proceedings, another 31 acres for school purposes, leaving approximately 113 acres (see map) which now constitute the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum. This area has served as a valuable addition to our various operations and has been visited by many; but in order to present its present functions to the public, a brief review is given here together with the current map and directions for reaching these holdings.

Nursery Areas

There are approximately 2,500 species and varieties of plants being grown in the nurseries, all carrying the name under which we originally received them. They are being tested for hardiness and will be checked for their true identity. Some are replacements for old plants in the Arboretum, many are new to its collections, and some are new introductions to America. Ericaceous materials and recent introductions from abroad are being grown in three saran-cloth-covered houses with overhead irrigation. After the first year or two of trial, these plants are placed in the regular nursery rows without any special winter protection. If they pass this test and are deemed varieties needed for display at the Arboretum, they eventually are planted in Jamaica Plain.

Experimental Areas

There are approximately 80 clones of the *Rhododendron fortunei* hybrids, primarily those originated by Charles O. Dexter of Sandwich, Massachusetts, growing in one of the saran houses for trial and comparison. A large field with mature shrubs is used for some very interesting trials and comparisons in pruning. The Perennial and Small Shrub Garden is an interesting area where mulches are used to reduce maintenance and small shrubs are planted among the bulbs and perennials to relieve the problem of planting annuals. Other departments of Harvard University have been permitted the use of small plots of land for various experimental purposes. Various experiments on pruning, mulching, application of weed killers, and the like are continually being carried out here in order to make the operations at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain more effective.

Permanent Nursery

Land has been set aside for a "permanent" nursery, made up chiefly of shrub varieties which for one reason or another are not considered as being among the "best" of the group, but which must be kept for observation and as a source of propagating material. Approximately 800 are planted in long rows, all labeled. Planting such "secondary" specimens in this way does not detract in any way from the value of the Arboretum and does allow for more space and valued care being given to the outstanding varieties at Jamaica Plain.

Ground Covers

Over 150 ground-cover plants are displayed in six-foot plots, all clearly labeled and easily observed at any time of year. There is an increasing interest in these plantings which include most of the best of the ground covers and some that are of value only under special conditions. (See *Arnoldia* 16: 53-60, Nov. 16, 1956.)

Small Trees

Eighty small trees are planted in this plot, all clearly labeled and of great interest for the small property owner or the individual who must select small trees for street-tree planting. All can be seen in the Arnold Arboretum in widely-dispersed plantings, but here they are brought together in one place for close study and observation. (See *Arnoldia*: 16: 9-16, April 26, 1956).

Other plantings have been made, especially one of some outstanding crab apple varieties in the big field bordering Newton St. Although small at the moment, these trees will be of ever-increasing beauty and interest as they grow older. Plantings of *Rhododendron fortunei* varieties are planned for the near future, also, and a collection of beach plum varieties and a dwarf apple orchard have been growing for several years.

The grounds to these plantings are always open and although motor cars are prohibited from driving about the narrow roads, most areas are easily accessible by foot from the path and visitors are always welcome.

DONALD WYMAN

- 1 Barn, 135 Wellesley Street
- 2 Cold Frames
- 3 Young Plant House
- 4 Malus sikkimensis Orchard
- 5 Holly Collection
- 6 Evergreen Nursery
- 7 Ericaceous Nursery
- 8 Nursery
- 9 Woods Path
- 10 Rhododendrons
- 11 Wisteria Experiment
- 12 Ornamental Small Tree Plot
- 13 Ground Cover Plots
- 14 Perennial and Small Shrub Garden
- 15 Orchard
- 16 Beach Plum Collection
- 17 Dwarf Fruit Trees
- 18 Permanent Barberry and Currant Collection
- 19 Permanent Shrub Testing Plot
- 20 Shrub Experimental Plot
- 21 Oriental Crab Apples
- 22 Cabot Foundation Experimental Plot



PLATE IX

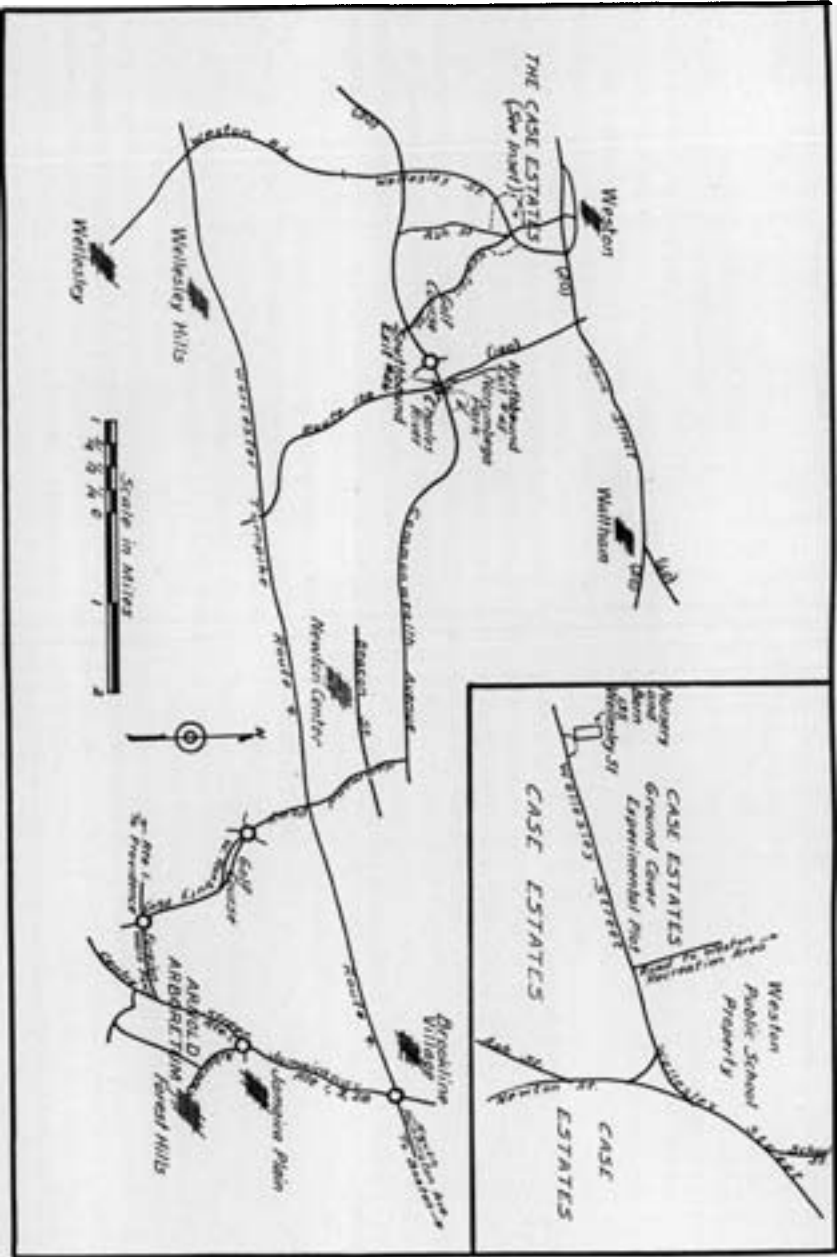


PLATE X

Map showing main roads between the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain and the Case Estates in Weston.