

Station 10: Oaks

Surrounding Station 10 are several species of oak tree. Identifying specific types of oak is difficult, as oaks of the same group may interbreed, producing a hybrid red or hybrid white offspring.

Types of oak found in Massachusetts include the white oak, northern red oak, black oak, and scarlet oak, although the red, black, and scarlet are all red varieties. Distinguishing between the white and red groups is fairly straightforward: white oaks have smooth, rounded leaves, whereas red oaks have sharper, more pointed leaves.

This part of the trail also marks the beginning of the prevalent mountain laurel, which is a native shrub that grows throughout the eastern United States. It is a signature plant in Hayes Woods. In the springtime the hillsides are covered in the light pink bowl-shaped flowers.

