

Fall Color Report

November 5, 2021

Fall colors are at their best this week because of the cool nights, earlier rains, and sunny weather we have been having. Areas of the Arboretum to visit with good color include the Maples (P7 & P14), East Woods (P8 to P16), Big Rock Visitor Station area, P15 area, Sumacs, Asian maples, ginkgoes (P18), Thornhill area and gardens (P21), and the Schulenberg Prairie (P25).

On our east side: (P1) American elms are at their best with other elms and lindens turning yellow; (P2) Midwest has American elm, redbud, bur oak, hickories, and late sugar maples showing yellow with oaks starting to turn brown or purple; (P3) Frost Hill has maples and magnolias showing yellow with zelkova and oaks beginning to turn; (P4) crabapple fruits are more prominent as leaves drop with nearby honey locusts and oaks showing yellow and some purple; (P5) magnolias are beginning to turn yellowish, blackgum is turning purple, and oaks are turning yellow and purple; (P6) Japanese buckeyes and lindens still have some yellow leaves; (P7 & P14) the maple collection is the place to visit for varied fall color; (P8) the oak collection has yellows, purples, and russet browns developing.

In our East Woods (P8 to P16) understory sugar maples are at their best yellow with lindens, ironwoods, bitternut hickories, and elms providing mostly yellow color. The best east woods color viewing are near P9, P13 (Big Rock Visitor Station), and P15.

On the West Side, the woods near P20, P23, and Sterling Pond have the best color with linden, ironwood, and redbuds providing mostly yellows. Sugar maples near Sterling and Lake Marmo are generally yellow or yellow-orange and starting to drop. The Freeman maple on the north shore of Lake Marmo is a very nice purple color, as is the one on the banks of the DuPage River near the willow collection. The Schulenberg Prairie is in its fall glory with grasses turning color and setting seed, and with highlights of blue and purple provided by asters and gentians.

This is the week to see the Arboretum's best fall color display! There is still time to get out and enjoy the fall weather, our varied leaf colors, and to shuffle through the fallen leaves on our various woodland trails.