

Selecting Trees for Good Fall Color

The fall or spring of the year is an excellent time to plant deciduous trees. Although weather conditions can affect the intensity and actual fall color that will develop on the leaves from year to year, much of it has to do with the type of tree you plant and its genetic makeup. If you are looking for trees to add to your landscape that produce consistent good fall color from year to year, please refer to the list of some recommended shade and ornamental trees below. This list contains trees that will, in most years, turn a variety of brilliant shades of red, orange, scarlet, and/or purplish-red in autumn.

Large trees



American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)- Yellowish-purple-red; select seedless cultivars.



Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)- Yellow to orange to scarlet to purple shades.



Ginkgo or Maidenhair (*Ginkgo biloba*)- Excellent clear yellow.



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)- Colors will vary from red-orange red depending on specific cultivar.



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)- Brilliant yellow, burnt orange to reds.



Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)- Yellow-soft apricot-orange.



White Oak (*Quercus alba*)- Brown to a rich red to wine color.



Common Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)- Soft brown to orangish-brown.



Linden (*Tilia*)- Yellow-green to yellowish.



American Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentuckea*)- Yellow tones.



Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)- Yellow-orange-bronze to deep reddish purples depending on cultivar.

Medium Trees



American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)- Yellow, orange, red to reddish-purple: varies according to cultivar.



Persian Parrotia or Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*)- Brilliant yellow to orange to scarlet-red.



Common Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)- Shades of yellow to deep orange to scarlet and purple.

Small Trees



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)- Red to reddish purple.



Witchhazel (*Hamamelis species*)- Yellow, reds, and purple depending on cultivar.



Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)- Varies from yellow, gold, amber, orange to reddish purple.



Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)- Yellow-apricot orange.



Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)- Yellow, bronze, orange, red, or purple depending on cultivar.