

Fall Color Report

10 Nov. 2021

We are entering the last 1/3 of our fall color season. Oaks and understory maples are providing the main colors in our woodlands and collections. In our collections maples and oaks predominate with russets added by bald-cypress and dawn-redwood. The Maples (P7 & P14), East Woods (P8 to P16), Big Rock Visitor Station area, P15 area, Sumacs, Asian maples, Thornhill area and gardens (P21), and the Schulenberg Prairie (P25) are the best spots to see fall colors this week.

On our east side: (P1) viburnums show maroon, bur and pin oaks show yellows and brown, bald-cypress shows coppery-brown, and bare crabapples are showing their fruits; (P2) Midwest has hickories, and late sugar maples showing yellow and browns with oaks turning brown or purple; (P3) Frost Hill has magnolias and zelkova showing yellows, and oaks showing wine, yellow, and some dark-reds; (P4) crabapple fruits are more prominent as leaves drop with nearby honey locusts and oaks showing yellows and browns; (P5) magnolias are showing yellows and browns, blackgum is turning purple, and oaks are turning yellow, brown, and purple; (P6) sugar maples in the forestry plot to the west show yellow leaves; (P7 & P14) the maple collection still displays good fall color; (P8) the oak collection shows yellows, russet browns, and dark reds.

In our East Woods (P8 to P16) understory sugar maples are still showing good yellow fall color with ironwoods and bitternut hickories providing late yellow-browns. The best east woods color viewing is between P8 & P9, P10-P13, and near P15. The China collection still has a nice showing of Asian maple colors from yellows to dark reds. P18 has late red sumacs.

On the West Side, P19 has crabapple fruits and some European maples in color. P21 and Joy Path have late sugar maples, bald-cypress, and native oaks providing late yellows, russets, and wine colors. Sargent's Glade (P26) has oaks showing, yellows, browns, and pale wine purples. Lake Marmo (P27 & P28) has witch-hazels showing yellows to oranges, and the Freeman maple on the north shore of the lake is still a very nice purple color. The main colors on the main route (P22 to P30) are our native oaks showing yellows, browns, and pale wine purple. The Schulenberg Prairie grasses are losing their brighter colors and are turning a straw-yellow. The DuPage River and Godshalk Meadow areas (P31-P33) have yellows of late sugar, Norway, and Miyabe maples.

There is still a lot of color out there and plenty of 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!