BEST OF FALL COLOR

Use this map and guide to explore the best of fall color at Hoyt Arboretum. Many of the fall color highlights are found amid the broadleaf trees on the Arboretum’s south slope, including Hoyt’s nationally-accredited maple collection. Explore these trails for a wonderful display of leaf color in shades of red, orange, and yellow. There is also striking color in the conifer collection on the north slope, when the needles of the deciduous conifers — including larch, bald cypress, and dawn redwood — turn golden in the fall.

Fall color typically extends over a long season in the Pacific Northwest, with peak color usually appearing in mid to late October.

1. Crapemyrtle — Lagerstroemia spp. The exfoliating bark of the Crapemyrtle provides a nice backdrop for the yellow, orange and red fall color.

2. Oaks — Quercus spp. Oaks tend to hold their leaves into the fall. The red oak, Quercus rubra, is the most vivid.

3. Beeches — Fagus spp. The Oriental Beech shows yellow-orange fall color. Many varieties of the European Beech have unusual leaf colors which become more pronounced in the fall.

4. Sweetgum — Liquidambar styraciflua. A valuable street tree, symmetrical and relatively trouble-free. Remarkable because the fall foliage color differs so much from branch to branch and tree to tree.

5. Yellowwood — Cladrastis kentukea. Native to the southeastern U.S. with unusual compound leaves that turn a brilliant fall color.

6. Strawberry tree — Arbutus unedo. Look for the pink urn-shaped flowers and round reddish "strawberry" fruit on this evergreen shrub.

7. Smoketrees — Cotinus spp. This tree gets its name from the smoky effect of its summer flowers. Its gorgeous fall leaf color ranges from yellow and orange to red.

8. Chinese Pistache — Pistacia chinensis. This pistache doesn’t produce the edible nut, but attractive foliage which turns red in the fall makes it a great small tree for the garden.

9. Oriental photinia — Photinia villosa. Yellow to red-bronze fall color and bright red berries highlight this deciduous plant.

10. Sumac — Rhus spp. The yellow, orange and scarlet early fall color of the Sumac is nothing short of spectacular and is a harbinger of more fall color to come.

11. Mountain ashes — Sorbus spp. Red fruits in fall provide color and contrast with leaves. Other species have white or pink fruits.

12. Maples — Acer spp. Great variety in the shapes and color of leaves and in the texture and color of bark is found among the many maple species planted along the trail.

13. Hornbeams — Carpinus spp. Sweeping horizontal branches clothed in yellow leaves add a light touch on dreary fall days.

14. Ashes — Fraxinus spp. Ashes often show an unusual purple or bronze fall color. Seed pods at the end of branches can add more interest.


16. Persimmons — Diospyros spp. Orange fruits decorate tree branches long after the brightly colored leaves have fallen. The American Persimmon turns yellow, while the Oriental Persimmon turns orange to red.

17. Franklinia — Franklinia alatamaha. White autumn flowers and leaves turning orange and red ornament this North American tree which is no longer found in the wild.

18. Stewartias — Stewartia spp. Leaves range from orange to scarlet and echo some of the wonderful color and texture of the bark of these fine trees.

19. Witchhazels — Hamamelis spp. These plants generally have spectacular yellow to yellow-orange fall color later in the fall season.

20. Dogwoods — Cornus spp. The east coast native, Cornus florida, takes on orange to red color. It is another glorious deciduous conifer.

21. Sourwood — Oxydendrum arboreum. One tree can display yellow, red and purple leaves at the same time, making this plant a fall favorite.

22. Larches — Larix spp. These deciduous conifers show beautiful yellow color before they lose their needles in the fall. Look for the decorative cones that ornament these trees year-round.

23. Ginkgo — Ginkgo biloba. The uniquely-shaped leaves of this tree turn a vivid yellow must years and can drop to the ground in a single night.

24. Dawn redwood — Metasequoia glyptostroboides. Orange-brown to red-brown needles glow on this deciduous conifer.

25. Bald cypress — Taxodium distichum. This stately tree’s needles turn a soft brown to orange color. It is another glorious deciduous conifer.

26. Zelkovas — Zelkova spp. Leaves of this handsome tree turn yellow-orange and even red to reddish-purple in the latter part of the fall season.

For an enjoyable visit and to make the Arboretum a safe place for all visitors, plants, and wildlife, please follow these guidelines:

- Bikes, scooters, and skateboards must remain on roads.
- Dogs must always be on leash; pet waste must be removed immediately.
- The Arboretum is smoke and tobacco free; alcohol at permitted events only.
- To protect Hoyt’s trees, no tree climbing, hammocks, or slacklines.
- No foraging; leave plants, animals, and other natural features for all visitors to enjoy.
- No fires, camping, or drones.

For more information, please visit hoytarboretum.org or call (503) 865-8733.