

Chlorophyll causes Fall leaves to change color

Someone recently asked me, "Why do leaves change color in the fall?" According to botanists, autumn's cooler temperatures and shorter days cause chlorophyll—which gives

two leaves are alike, and none of them will have the same splendid color combination each season. However, experts explain that all the color variations are based on the following

My Neck Of The Woods

leaves their green color in spring and summer—to break down and other pigments to form in the leaves.

Experts note that a spectacular show of fall colors depends on the right amount of sunshine, rain and cool temperatures. Northwest falls are often so beautiful, because the region's weather is often dry, bright and cool, as it has been lately.

Like everything else in nature, no

pigments:

Yellow and Orange— These pigments are in the leaves all year long, but can't be seen in the spring and summer because they are covered by the green chlorophyll. These are the same pigments that make egg yolks yellow and carrots orange.

Red and Purple— The bright red and purple colors of fall only show up on leaves of trees that produce a lot of

sugar. Because trees need very cool and dry temperatures to produce sugar, these colors are mostly found in New England's trees, although when weather conditions are right the Northwest woods, blaze with the colors of fall as well. Red maples, which normally produce a lot of sugar, usually have red and purple leaves in autumn. But if fall temperatures are too warm, or there isn't enough sugar in the tree, a red maple's leaves will turn orange or yellow.

Brown— Some leaves, like those on oak trees, do not change to bright colors in the fall, but become brown and drab. This is due to the presence of the chemical tannin, which mixes with the yellow and orange pigments, and turns the leaves brown.

Next Week:

Wake Me When It's Over

And why do leaves fall?

Fall's cooler weather also causes the food products stored in the leaves to flow to safer quarters—the trees branches and trunk. A thin layer of cells, called the "absciss layer," then forms across the stem which connects leaf to twig. With this link weakened, the leaf is broken off by an autumn breeze or eventually falls to the ground of its own weight.

Humorist Oct. subject of Study Club

The October meeting of the Vernonia Study Club was held at the home of Mrs. John Lentz.

Mrs. Mildred Tupper chaired the business session and a welcome was extended to new member, Mrs. Don Bergerson.

The evening's program, presented by Mrs. Ralph Sturdevant, was devoted to humorist Art Buchwald. Buchwald, a contemporary political and social satirist, is a widely syndicated columnist and magazine writer. He is a popular guest on the

lecture circuit and makes infrequent appearances on national television.

thank you...

I want to say a very special thank you to all my very good friends, and the people of Vernonia, for all your concern and kindness while I was in the hospital, for all the visitors and support.

Also, all the beautiful flowers, cards, presents, letters and phone calls.

I am home now hoping for a speedy recovery. *Beulah Burkhard*

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