

Why Isn't My Red Maple Red?
By Ward Upham, Kansas State University



Why do some red maple trees have yellow fall foliage instead of brilliant red?

Although fall color will vary with different environmental conditions, in many cases the yellow foliage of these red maples is simply due to the genetics of the individual tree. Unnamed red maple trees grown from seed are not always brilliant red. They have highly variable fall color. If you want a red maple with excellent red foliage in the fall, choose named, vegetatively propagated red maple cultivars such as Red Sunset, Magnificent Magenta or Autumn Flame. October Glory has outstanding foliage color but is late in acclimating for winter and can be damaged by early cold snaps

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The TGOA/MGCA national web site thanks the author for submitting this article on October 18, 2000. Tracking number: WSP2000101800024