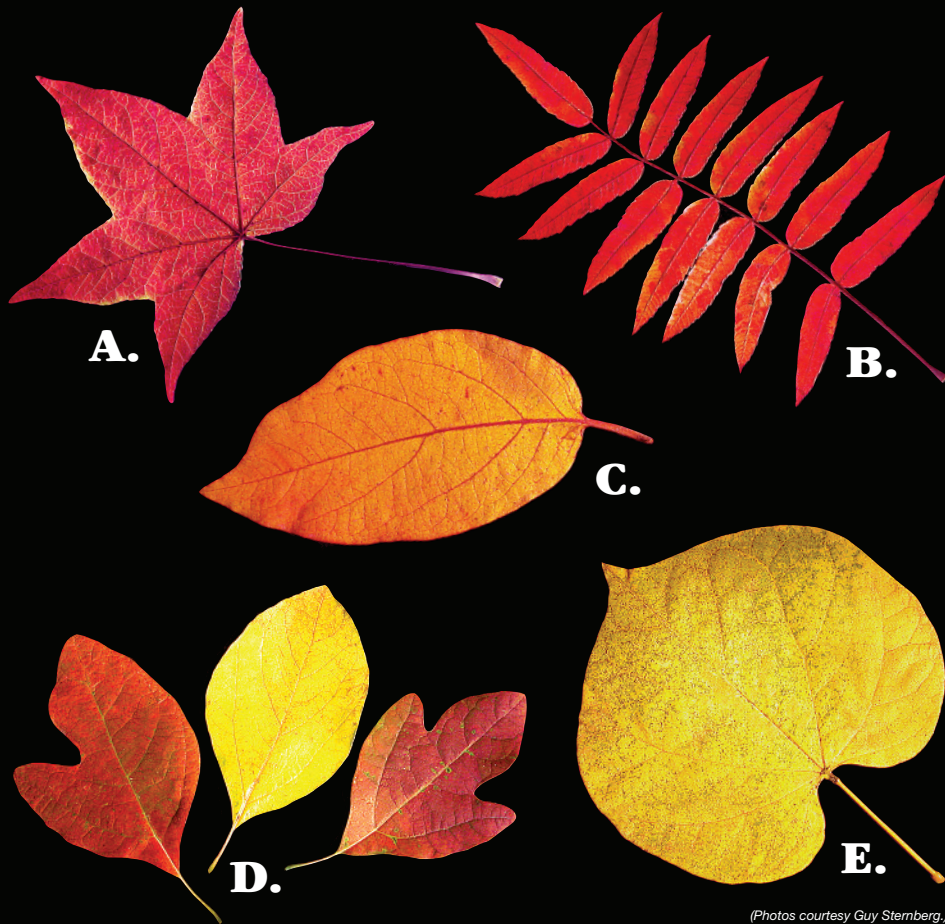


Fall Colors



(Photos courtesy Guy Sternberg.)

Fall is a beautiful time of year in Illinois. The red, purple, orange, yellow, brown and bronze shades of the leaves reflect the great diversity of tree species in our state. Our fall color season lasts several weeks, normally starting in northern Illinois counties by the third or fourth week in September. Leaves' colors begin to change during the second week in October in central Illinois and by the last two weeks of October in the southern part of the state. The peak of fall color in Illinois normally occurs by mid-October in northern and central Illinois and by late October or early November in the southern third of the state.

Match each leaf above to its name below

- common persimmon**
Diospyros virginiana
Need a hint? It's a tree with fruits the color of this leaf.
- redbud**
Cercis canadensis
Need a hint? It's a tree with heart.
- sweetgum**
Liquidambar styraciflua
Need a hint? It's a woodland star.
- sassafras**
Sassafras albidum
Need a hint? It's a tree with an identity crisis.
- smooth sumac**
Rhus glabra
Need a hint? It's a compound leaf.

Explore Illinois' scenic fall beauty

For seasonal updates on fall foliage, call the Illinois Bureau of Tourism at (800) 226-6632, TDD (800) 406-6418 or visit www.enjoyillinois.com. Some popular fall destinations include:

Apple River Canyon SP, JoDaviess County
Argyle Lake SP, McDonough County
Beall Woods SP, Wabash County
Big River SF, Henderson County
Ferne Clyffe SP, Johnson County
Garden of the Gods, Saline County
Giant City SP, Jackson County
Hidden Springs SF, Shelby County
Jubilee College SP, Peoria County
Kickapoo SP, Vermilion County
Lowden-Miller SF, Ogle County
Mississippi Palisades SP, Carroll County
Pere Marquette SP, Jersey County
Rock Cut SP, Winnebago County
Starved Rock SP, LaSalle County
Trail of Trees SF, Union County

Learn more

Educators—do you ask your students to make a leaf collection? Do you know the proper way to preserve leaves? Are you confident identifying the leaves submitted? Attend an ENTICE “Identifying Trees and Making Leaf Collections” workshop and you’ll work with experts to learn how to identify and preserve tree leaves. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Register at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for either workshop:

September 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.—Moraine View State Recreation Area, LeRoy

September 26, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Morton Arboretum, Lisle

The “Illinois Fall Colors” poster is one in a series of natural resources posters available from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education. Great tools for educators and youth group leaders, posters may be ordered at <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids>.