

Autumn Colours

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It rained all summer and as soon as the kids are back in school the sun turns up; the 2nd of September, the second day of Autumn, and the temperatures soar. Is it now too soon to think about autumn colour change in the trees? Well, yes and no.

Autumn is a time of change, as the days get shorter, and the nights get colder, but it is also a time of beauty, as the leaves on the trees change colour. The exact colours of Autumn vary depending on the type of tree, but some of the most common colours include red, orange, yellow, and brown. It is one of those features that can point to a tree being native or not, as most British native trees go yellow during Autumn, whereas most other trees from outside Europe will be orange or red. We will talk about the way autumn colours are generated in the next edition of the Droplet, but for now here are a few things to look for and consider:

- ✓ Ash trees appear to be turning yellow quite early this year, and this may be due to the stress they are under because of Ash Die Back, early Autumn colour is often a sign of stress, drought, or disorder.
- ✓ Cherries, pears, apples, and plums are all looking worse for wear this year, as are many others in the same family, and this is again likely due to the poor weather over the last two months.
- ✓ The Sweetgums in the local park have vivid colours on some of them, but this is due to squirrel damage.
- ✓ The Horse Chestnuts are already mostly brown and again this is caused by insect and fungal infections.

So, it isn't always as it seems, and if you want to understand your trees better, join the BTP Saturday training sessions.

Watering Update



The next two weeks are due to be hot once again, during this strange British Summer-Autumn we've been having, so to prepare for the coming Winter, trees will need a helping hand through the heatwave. Here are our top tips for watering street and residential trees:

- ✓ Check the soil moisture regularly. You can do this by sticking your finger into the soil a few inches. If the soil is dry to the touch, it's time to water. Water deeply and infrequently.
- ✓ Water in the early morning or evening. This will help prevent the water from evaporating quickly.
- ✓ Water the soil, not the leaves. The leaves don't need water as much as the roots do, and watering the leaves can spread disease.
- ✓ Mulch around the tree - mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil and suppress weeds.

BTP have a stand at the upcoming MAC's Big Green Weekender, 17th September, alongside BOSF. Come and say hello!