

Trees & Shrubs for Fall Colour

Fall is a wonderful time for long walks in the woods to see the brilliant colours of trees and shrubs - reds, yellows and apricots. Why not recreate some of these colours in your own home landscape. Our GARDENWORKS experts have selected a few of their favourite trees and shrubs with outstanding fall colour.

FULL-MOON MAPLE *Acer japonicum*

This small tree or large bush grows to a maximum height of about 10m (30ft) making it a great choice for the urban garden. The leaves are soft green in summer, turning to rich crimson in fall (especially the variety 'Aconitifolium'). Plant on a moist, well-drained site with shade to full sun.

JAPANESE MAPLE *Acer palmatum*

This group of trees bear rich colours of either bronze or different shades of green leaves during the summer. The 'Dissectum' Japanese maple has much more finely cut leaves and a daintier overall appearance. The majority of Japanese maples grow 6 to 7.5m (20 to 25ft). Gorgeous red, orange or yellow fall foliage. *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' with leaves that are deep reddish-purple in the summer and turn brilliant red in the fall; *Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku', this coral-bark maple bears light green foliage in summer which changes to a glorious apricot-yellow tone in the fall all highlighted by its bright, salmon-pink bark.



BEAUTY BERRY *Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii*

This shrub may appear nondescript during the summer months, but in the fall, the leaves turn rose-purple and the branches are dressed with clusters of jewel-like lavender fruits. Plant in clusters of three to encourage heavy fruiting. At maturity, this loose shrub will reach 2m (6ft) in height and width.

RED TWIG DOGWOOD *Cornus stolonifera*

Absolutely gorgeous, red branches in the winter, plus wonderful fall colour. If you are also interested in a striking summer contrast the more interesting choice is the variegated leaf varieties. There is a yellow twig variety for a bright emerald green display in winter time. Planted together both would make a spectacular show of colour! Cut down to 15cm (6") in the winter to encourage the development of fresh stems, or leave the occasional stem to give it some height.

RED-VEIN ENKIANTHUS *Enkianthus campanulatus*

An easy to grow shrub with a brilliant fall colour - yellows to reds. It's pinkish white urn-shaped flowers are produced in spring and usually last three to four weeks. This is a medium to large sized bush (3-4.5m (10-15ft) that thrives in full sun to partial shade.

WINGED EUONYMUS *Euonymus alatus*

For spectacular fall colour, this shrub has no rival. It's bright red leaves can be spotted from a great distance, being one of the most brightly coloured of shrubs in fall. For the best in colouration, plant in full sun. Will eventually grow to be a small tree (1.8-2.4m , 6- 8ft) with a wide spreading canopy.

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MAIDENHAIR TREE

Ginkgo biloba

A large tree (30m ,100ft) for a large garden, the ginkgo is absolutely majestic in maturity. Its beautiful fan-shaped leaves are light green in summer and turn a butter-yellow in fall.

DWARF ALDER

Fothergilla spp.

These slow-growing shrubs have the wonderful habit of turning a rich burgundy-red when under the slightest stress, and of course in fall. Full sun is best, as they colour up less in shade. There are two main types available. *F. monticola* is a small shrub that grows 1-1.5m (3-4ft) tall, while *F. major* is more upright to 3m (9ft) tall. Both species bear white catkin-like flowers in early spring, just before their leaves appear.

SWEET GUM

Liquidambar styraciflua

This large, statuesque tree with maple-like leaves will eventually reach 12m (40ft) in height. Fall colours range from dark burgundy to brilliant red and yellow. Its distinctive grooved bark provides winter interest.

HEAVENLY BAMBOO

Nandina domestica

This easy, evergreen shrub will tolerate most garden sites from full sun to shade, but fall colour is more intense when grown in full sun. Eventually reaching 1.5-1.8m (5-6ft), the heavenly bamboo can be planted amongst other shrubs or used as an unclipped hedge.

VIRGINIA CREEPER

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Virginia creeper and Boston creeper are very similar in needs and growth habits. Both are self clinging to any surface and can tolerate shade to full sun exposure. These vines are great choices to dress up a wall or tree. Fall colour range from rich orange to deep burgundy.

FIRETHORN

Pyracantha spp.

A fast growing, evergreen shrub, the Firethorn produces abundant orange-red berries in the fall. Use this thorny, sprawling bush as a barrier or a wall ornament. Unclipped, it grows into a large shrub over 3m (9ft) tall.

STAG'S-HORN SUMAC

Rhus typhina

Let this sprawling shrub run loose in a naturalized area or an embankment. A display of breathtaking orange and yellow colour in the fall. Stag's-horn Sumac will eventually gain the status of a small tree, reaching 7.5-9m (25-30ft).

DOUBLE-FILE VIBURNUM

Viburnum tomentosum

The branches of this wonderful shrub are arranged horizontally in tiers, and are covered with delicate white blooms during spring. In the fall they are dressed with warm bronze leaves. 'Summer Snowflake' is the most popular variety and reaches 1.5-1.8m (5-6ft) in height.

PERSIAN PARROTIA

Parrotia persica

This tree is attractive all year, but its most dramatic display appears in the fall. It makes a great small tree for urban gardens, reaching an eventual maturity of 5m (15ft) tall.

KATSURA TREE

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

This is a tree of many virtues, being a wonderful supply of fall colour and shade for small gardens. The leaves show hints of bronze tones throughout the growing season, but in fall they turn a rich reddish-burgundy colour. Perfect for urban gardens, this tree reaches a height of 12m (40ft) in maturity, but is narrow in its growth habit, taking less room than a widely branches tree. Also available is the weeping form, 'Pendula' or 'Pendulum'.