

Dry weather affecting autumn leaves colours

The changing colour of autumn leaves is a spectacular event in forests worldwide. The colours form a colourful canvas that ends summer. In the USA, the leaves have been affected by drought. This has dulled the colours of the leaves. Much of America's northwest has had weather that did not produce colourful leaves. The traditional autumnal beauty spots of Massachusetts and New Hampshire are experiencing duller colours.

A forest and ecology professor explained why this year has been so bad. He said there were several factors, including mild drought, warm days and cool nights. He said the colours came two weeks earlier than normal, "and will probably go by fast and furiously". The weather created "physiological stress for the trees". The professor warned: "The stress is not a good thing and may be a harbinger of things to come with climate change." (L4)

TRUE / FALSE

1. The article said there was a photo competition about autumn colours. **T / F**
2. Good tree growth last year contributed to the duller colours this year. **T / F**
3. The colours will arrive two weeks later than usual this year. **T / F**
4. A professor said the autumn colours could be a sign of climate change. **T / F**

MONTHS: Rank these months. Put your favourite at the top. Prepare to discuss your answers.

- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December
- January
- February