

Your garden in November – autumn foliage

A time of mists and mellow fruitfulness, the garden in autumn is anything but dull. Nature puts on one last spectacular display, with a rich tapestry of foliage that glows in the lowering sun, and abundant clusters of ripe berries.

Amazingly, the reds and golds of autumn leaves are always present, but are masked by chlorophyll, the pigment that gives leaves their green colour. As trees prepare for winter, production of chlorophyll stops, revealing the reds and golds in all their glory.

Acers, or Japanese maples, are great for small gardens and reliably produce a blaze of autumn colour. Give them shelter from cold winds and partial shade and they will reward you. *Amelanchier lamarckii* is a medium-sized tree which as well as its rich autumn display, produces a cloud of white blossom in the spring.

Shrubs with colourful autumn tints include *Berberis*, *Cotinus*, and *Euonymus alatus* – the winged spindle with leaves that turn every shade from pink through to brilliant crimson.

Entice birds into your garden by planting shrubs that produce reliable crops of tasty berries. As well as our native hawthorn, holly and elderberry, good shrubs for berries include *Cotoneaster*, *Viburnum*, and *Mahonia*.



Parthenocissus quinquefolia or Virginia Creeper

Growth of your lawn should have slowed down. Mow it regularly but raise the height on the mower to leave the grass slightly longer. If you're feeling energetic, use a spring-tine rake to remove the thatch of dead grass and moss that will have built up. The lawn will look worse immediately afterwards, but will soon enjoy the improved ventilation!