



# About Autumn Colors

## New England's Autumn Leaves: What's it all About?

On average, the peak of New England's season is during the first two weeks of October.

### What actually happens?

Only certain varieties of trees produce dramatic color. And, the change requires the right soil and the right weather. Sunny days followed by crisp nights stop the production of chlorophyll, the chemical that produces green in the leaves. This allows other colors/pigments to show through, such as orange and yellow (carotenoids) and red and purple (anthocyanins).

### What trees change color?

- Dogwood, sassafras, red oak, and maples turn crimson and scarlet
- Hickory, poplars, birch, elms and ginkgoes change to gold and yellow
- Mountain maple are reddish-orange
- Sumac is purple

Resource: [www.discovernewengland.org](http://www.discovernewengland.org)

# Common Trees in Rhode Island

## Common Maple

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_



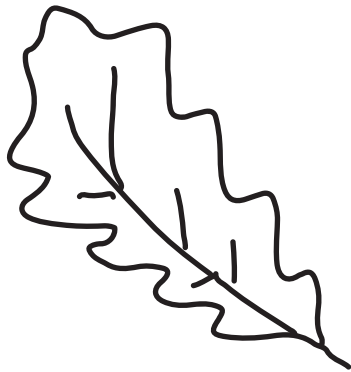
## Japanese Maple

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_



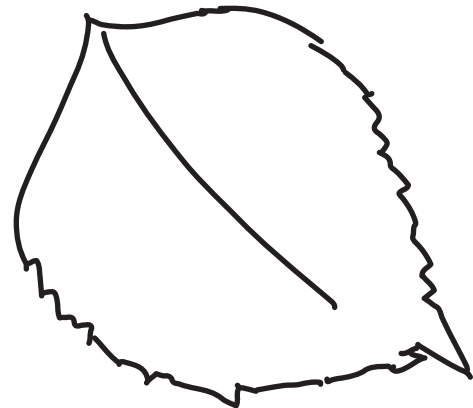
## Oak

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_



## Birch

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_



## Eastern Redbud

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_



**Can you identify a leaf not on this page?**

Name? \_\_\_\_\_

What Color is it? \_\_\_\_\_