

Star Turns 3 Star Plants for Autumn Colour

7 Tupelo or sour gum *Nyssa sylvatica*

This spectacular tree native to Canada, USA and Mexico stands on the edge of Thomson's Pond. Its foliage turns rich scarlet, orange and yellow in autumn.



9 Sweet gum cultivar *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesden'

This autumn colour favourite originates from eastern America. Perhaps our best example is the cultivar 'Worplesden' that provides a spectacular display on Thomson's Lawn. In autumn its leaves turn a kaleidoscope of colours ranging from orange, crimson to yellow.



17 Japanese maple *Acer palmatum*

There are a number of cultivars of this wonderful tree around the Plantation. One of the largest and most stunning examples grows on the bank above the Still Pond. During the autumn its mass of scarlet red leaf colour shines out and can be seen reflecting on the mirror-like surface of the pond below.

Why do Leaves Change Colour?

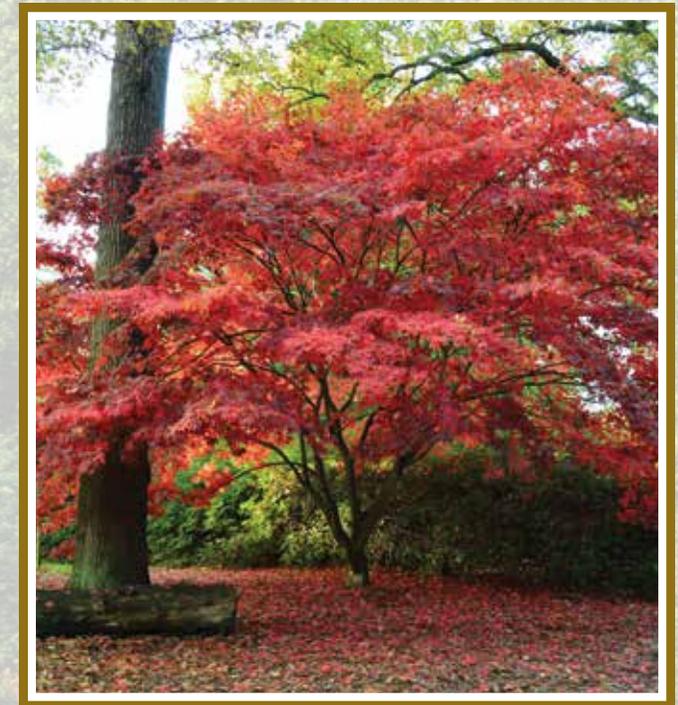
A leaf is green because of the presence of a pigment known as chlorophyll. During spring and summer, the chlorophyll's green colour masks other coloured pigments in the leaf.

Chlorophyll captures the sun's rays and uses this energy to manufacture the plant's food - simple sugars which are produced from water and carbon dioxide. In late summer, as daylight hours shorten and temperatures cool, chlorophyll production decreases.

As chlorophyll reduces, the hidden pigments of yellow, brown and orange (carotenoids) are revealed. These colours are present throughout the year, but the red and purple pigments (anthocyanins) only appear once chlorophyll has been degraded. This colour change is the result of many influences, inside and outside the plant.

Autumn colours depend on the breakdown of sugars in bright light which reduces the level of phosphate in the leaf. The brighter the light during late summer, the greater the production of red and purple colours, and the more brilliant the display.

When the days of autumn are bright and cool, and the nights are chilly but not freezing, the brightest colours usually develop.



Autumn Fruit and Leaf Colour

Tread Lightly 

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<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/richmond-park/richmond-park-attractions/isabella-plantation>



LOTTERY FUNDED



Richmond Park
A ROYAL PARK

1 Winged spindle tree
Euonymus alatus

Leaves are rich rosy scarlet. Reddish-purple fruits open to reveal bright orange-coated seeds.



2 Sea buckthorn
Hippophae rhamnoides

Narrow silvery leaves. Orange-yellow berries.



3 Swamp cypress
Taxodium distichum

Deciduous conifer. Leaf branchlets bronze-yellow in autumn before dropping.



5 Tall Stewartia
Stewartia monadelph

Attractive red and scarlet tints in autumn.



4 Mountain ash or Rowan
Sorbus aucuparia

Fruit bright red in dense bunches.



The Isabella Plantation
Look for the leaf symbol on the posts as you move along the path. Use the numbers next to the leaf to find the description in this leaflet. Stars are described in the 'Star Turns' section.



6 Sweet gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Leaves provide a kaleidoscope of colours from pale yellow to dark crimson.



19 Crimson glory vine
Vitis coignetiae

Climber with large leaves that turn crimson and scarlet in autumn.



18 Red maple
Acer rubrum

'October Glory' Brilliant red autumn colour.



10 Tulip tree
Liriodendron tulipifera

Leaves butter yellow in autumn.



16 Disanthus
cercidifolius

Soft crimson and claret red autumn tints.



15 Christmas camellia
Camellia sasanqua

'Rubra' Rich red single flowers.



12 Downy Japanese maple
Acer japonicum

'Aconitifolium' Leaves deeply lobed, colour richly in autumn.



8 Dawn redwood
Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Deciduous conifer. Leaves colour russet before dropping.



11 Persian ironwood
Parrotia persica

Leaves turn crimson and gold in autumn.



14 Viburnum
betulifolium

Bunches of redcurrant-like fruits which persist into winter.



13 Christmas berry
Photinia beauverdiana

var. *notabilis* Leaves colour before falling, leaving clusters of orange-red fruits.

