

September - Week 4

Curious about Color Change

In the spring, Maple trees provide a feast for your pancakes. In the fall it is a feast for the eyes! Find a Maple tree and document how the color of its leaves change over time. How about other deciduous tree species? Paper Birch display golden-yellow leaves in fall. Can you find these trees in your neighborhood, local woodland, or park? Are their leaves green or yellow? Do you have Virginia Creeper (5-leaf ivy) or Cottonwood trees for a good compare and contrast?

Are you curious about how long it takes a green Maple leaf to turn red or another species such as Birch or Cottonwood to turn yellow? Find a tree with some leaves starting to change color. Mark a green leaf and observe daily to record the changes. Do you wonder: Where did the green go?

Now it is time to get out your paints or colored pencils and add a splash of color to the color change data you have collected. Consider producing a “time lapse” picture, using data and observations you make during the week as leaves change color before your very eyes.



Maples on the Jeffers property provide a colorful display each Fall.