

# MAST GENERAL STORE®

SINCE 1883

## Guide to Fall Foliage

1. Leaves begin to change on the highest ridgelines and progress down into the valleys and foothills. Some of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Mountain Chain are found in Western North Carolina - Richland Balsam (elevation 6,410 feet), Grandfather Mountain (5,938 feet), and Mount Mitchell (6,684 feet). The color season typically lasts from late September until early November (or longer) depending upon the weather conditions - rain, frost/freeze, wind.
2. Some trees can display more than one color leaf - sugar maples may have red leaves where they have the greatest exposure to the sun and yellow leaves underneath; white oaks can display reddish orange leaves as well as soft brown leaves.
3. Weather can change quickly at any time of year in the mountains. Be sure to bring a jacket and layer your clothing while out leaf looking. If you are hiking, be sure to let someone know where you are and when you expect to be back.
4. Plan ahead. If you make a trip to the mountains for the fall foliage “show,” be sure to book your accommodations before leaving home.
5. Check the Mast Store’s leaf update page for the color’s progression. This page will be updated once or twice weekly.

Below is a key to help you in identifying the leaves you are seeing by their color.



Beech trees turn yellow, reddish browns, and bronze



Birch trees feature strong yellow and pale red hues



Dogwoods are in the “understory of the forest” and turn deep red and almost purple



Hickory trees have several different varieties (varying numbers of leaves) and turn yellow



Locusts have rounded leaves opposite each other on a stem and turn soft yellow



Poplar trees turn brilliant yellow



Red Maples feature the most stunning shades of crimson



Red Oaks feature oranges and various shades of red



Sugar maples turn a mixture of yellows and reds and are not quite as striking as Red Maples



White Oak leaves are late in showing their colors and are often muted - they turn reddish oranges and soft browns



Silver Maples are easy to distinguish in the summer because of their “silver” underside - in the fall they turn red - often bright red