

## **ILLINOIS FALL COLOR REPORT 9/29/16**



### **Northwest**

Quad cities area: Rock Island, Henry, Bureau, Mercer, Knox, and Stark Counties

Fall colors may start arriving, with evening temperatures in the 50s and daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Roadsides are mainly green with yellow from goldenrod and sunflowers; dogwoods turning grayish burgundy; white and cerise (Crayola color) asters are more visible. Fields are ripening and drying down. Harvest has begun but still tan, brownish-yellow, and yellowish-green being observed.

Woodlands are still predominantly green, but starting to yellow; walnut color change is more advanced and they are losing leaves but holding on to light green fruit and dropping green/yellow fruit; expect Virginia creeper and poison ivy to have some major color change, turning yellow to faint orange to scarlet; white flowering snakeroot is also more visible along with some of the cerise asters. Red maples in the urban areas have begun to change to scarlet red.

### **Northeast**

The walnuts have quickly changed and have lost most of their leaves. Sumac has started to turn deep red. Silver maples are starting to get a yellow hue, as are honey locusts. Other than that, things are still pretty green. Lower temperatures this week may help move things along.

### **West Central**

The West Central portion of the state has very little tree color change at this time. The Great River Road from Alton to Eldred along with Pere Marquette State Park have Golden Rods with bright yellows, and prairie grasses with good tans and browns. The soybeans are turning a bright yellow as the corn is being harvested.



Pike, Adams, Scott, Calhoun, Brown, Jersey, Greene, and Macoupin counties: Cottonwood and walnut are starting to brown/yellow and lose leaves. A small fraction of the mid-story sassafras are starting to turn red. All other tree/brush species remain predominantly green, maintaining their summer colors at the current time.

Color is starting to pick up a bit in McDonough County: sumac showing more reds, ash showing more yellow and purple. Maples not showy yet, but are starting to drop some leaves. Cottonwoods are turning yellow and dropping leaves.

### **Central**

Most of the bright color is in the prairie areas and roadside ditches and fence lines that haven't been mowed. A lot of yellow goldenrod right now, and some of the purple asters are starting to show up. There is a very small amount of sumac red. In southern LaSalle County and Starved Rock State Park this week, trees are starting to turn to fall color. Crop harvest is full swing and with it farm equipment and grain trucks moving everywhere, so be careful!

There is a little yellow color starting to show from walnuts and hackberry in the uplands. Some maples are showing a little yellow, and the cottonwoods are mostly turning brown in the river bottom at this time.

### **East Central**

Still very little fall color showing in east central Illinois; some stressed black walnuts have some leaves turning yellow and dropping.

## South

In Union County, some leaves are beginning to turn in southern Illinois, but not too much color yet. The maple leaves are beginning to turn and fall, and some of the walnut and sumac leaves are just starting to turn.

In the Fairfield area, the sumacs are a bit more prominent now than one week ago. Green ash is just beginning to turn yellow. You have to know the tree to note the change, but it is happening.

A few of the sassafras in Clinton County are just starting to show some red/purple in their leaves.

Effingham, Clay, Marion, Fayette counties area: Just starting to show some color. Ash trees are starting to turn yellow and purple; some maple trees are beginning to show some yellow-orange; sassafras are beginning to get some reds. Cooler weather is helping out.

Randolph County has little fall foliage activity, but the ash trees are dropping leaves but are not really changing colors, especially on trees that could be stressed by disease.