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Add Autumn's Colors to Your Landscape

By Lydia Holley

Considering adding some autumn color to your landscape? Now is the time to look around and determine the types of trees and other plantings you can put together for a breathtaking autumn arrangement.

Maples, sweetgums, pears, and many other trees are flaunting their autumn colors. Reds, yellows, purples and oranges are all now on display. Whether you have a large landscape or a small lot, you can add a touch of autumn's beauty to your garden.

If you are planting a wooded area, the easiest way to determine the desired placement is to take pictures of each tree's leaves in their autumn splendor. Mix the photos until you have a combination pleasing to your eye, and plant accordingly. Of course, you have to take into consideration mature heights and widths. But, it is easier to move photos around than to transplant trees later on. Be certain to include a small number of evergreens to contrast with your chosen trees' autumn colors.



Most people will not plant an entire wooded area. Instead, you may wish to plant one specimen tree. If this is the case, you will want to also consider the tree's winter form. If you have the room, you may wish to put together a combination of plants for a beautiful autumn display.

One successful autumn combination I have seen is red-leafed trees behind a sheared evergreen hedge of dwarf Burford hollies. Placed in front of this evergreen wall were colorful deciduous barberry (*Berberis*) shrubs. The red of the trees and shrubs, divided by green, was striking. Some other shrubs you may wish to investigate for their fall foliage color include oak leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), viburnums, blueberry bushes, sumacs (*Rhus*), and smokebush (*Cotinus*).

Remember to include colorful ground covers, such as yellow variegated liriopse or goldmoss sedum (*Sedum acre*), in your design. Again, take photos of plants that appeal to you to determine a colorful combination of your own. Since plants turn at varying times, for best results, take your photos on the same day.

Your garden should have at least one spot where autumn's beauty comes alive. By taking note of plants with colorful foliage now, you can plan for a delightful arrangement to anticipate each year.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmg.org/hendersonmg.

