

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

WHY DO PLANTS CHANGE COLOR IN THE FALL??

The vivid and spectacular colors of the fall season are about to transform our countryside once again. Have you ever wondered what causes the green leaves to undergo this remarkable change?

During the spring and summer the leaves supply nourishment to the tree through the process of photosynthesis. Minute bodies within the leaf contain molecules of green pigment called Chlorophyll which gives the leaves their green color. During late summer and early fall the plant starts to prepare for the upcoming winter by slowly shutting down the food making process. Chlorophyll (green coloring) is no longer needed to produce the food, so it gradually disappears. The other colors that we see in the fall are always present in the leaf, but they are masked when green throughout the season. As the green colors (pigments) are revealed.

During the fall a special layer of cells develop at the end of the leaf stack. These cells inhibit the movement of food between the leaf and the rest of the tree. As a result some sugars are trapped in the leaf. It is these sugars that develop into the bright shades of red. An early frost usually results in inferior colors. Shortened days with bright sunshine and cool nights are required to produce the most intense fall colors - orange, yellow and especially red. However the fall color that a tree exhibits depends upon the type of the tree it is and its natural characteristics as well as the weather conditions that year.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE
ACTON
853-2480

ASSIC Alert

Acton Social Services and Information Centre

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3. Notify buddy when going away for a day.
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5. Follow emergency procedures if buddy does not answer the phone.

If you would like to team up with a someone else in a similar situation, then call Sue at Acton Social Services and Information Centre, 853-3310, or come to our office at 19 Willow St. North, Acton and pick up an application form.

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