Autumn colour

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Autumn colour

Trees arebeginning the process of shutting down for the winter and shedding leaves. The trigger for this is the shorter days, but weather conditions through the summer and early autumn affect the rate of leaf loss and intensity of colour.
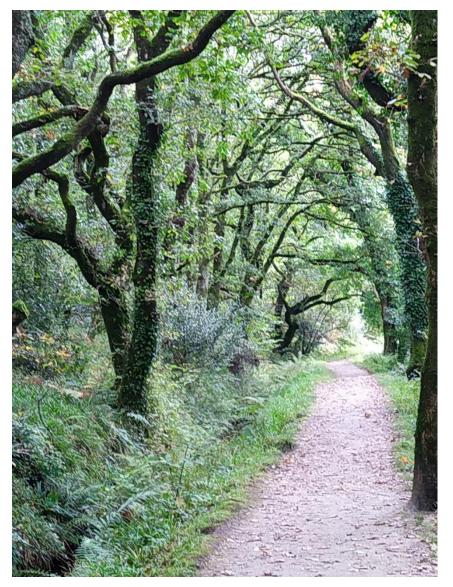
Last week the National Trust urged us all to get out and enjoy the autumn colour. They say that a spectacular and prolonged autumn display of colour is predicted for the UK's parks and gardens thanks to good sunny spells in the spring and September and some nurturing dampness in the summer.

Have you noticed any changes yet this year?
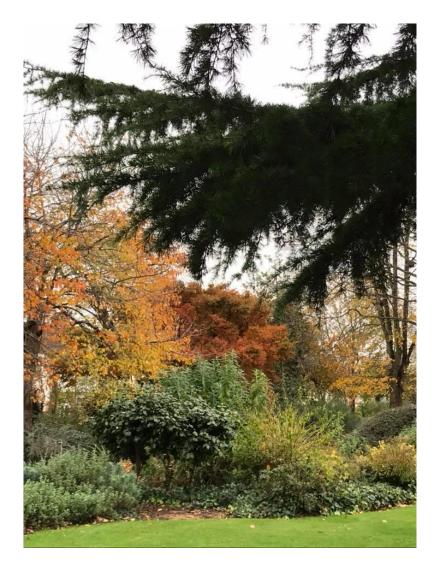
Enjoy the landscapes around you.

Don't just look at the leaves though, the bark of some trees also give great colour to the landscape in parks especially with the light lower in the sky.

Enjoy the landscapes around you.

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This year, it's more important than ever, to notice nature and to drink in the colourful landscapes that we can see at this time of year in all our beautiful parks.

Colourful berries

The berries and fruits on trees are also abundant and colourful this year.

The squirrels and birds should be well fed this winter.

A colour wheel

Use the colourful leaves to make a wheel of colours. You can do this outside in your garden or bring the leaves inside and stick them to paper. For a longer lasting picture dry the leaves first in a book between tissue paper.

Leaves as a habitat

Mounds of leaves in your garden make a great habitat for over wintering insects. Don't tidy up too much and be careful to leave a few in a dry corner of the garden.

You can also collect the leaves in bags to make leaf mould. Leaf mold is formed from decaying leaves and produces a great soil conditioner.

Place the leaves into a bin liner, moisten them if they are dry, then pierce holes in the bag with a knife or garden fork, tie the top loosely and stack the bags out of sight for up to two years before spreading it on your garden