



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Forestry Today

Conservation and Recreation



Iowa's forests are unique, hidden gems in a land of farm fields and grasslands. Some of the most beautiful forests in the Midwest are found in Iowa.

Here's some fun options for you and your family to celebrate Iowa forests this fall.

- Explore a [State Forest](#).
- Get your fall color fix - check the [DNR weekly report](#) for details on where to see the best fall color in Iowa.
- Discover the unique qualities of [common Iowa trees](#) in your neighborhood.
- Take a behind the scenes tour of an [Iowa wood-based business](#).
- Visit a wood themed museum in [Dyersville](#) or [Clinton](#).
- Learn more about forests with fun activities for the whole family from [Project Learning Tree](#).
- Identify all the things at your home that are made of wood. Check this [list of products from trees](#) to see what you may be missing.
- Contact your [local forest expert](#) to help you make sustainable management decisions for the trees on your land.

Maximizing Fall Color at Home with Art-Based Theory

Create your own showcase of fall colors with concepts from the art world. Like great paintings that use contrast, complimentary colors and textures to accentuate

the canvas—in a yard setting, that lonely but lovely solitary tree, when paired with others—becomes a masterpiece, especially as fall colors arrive.

To create masterpieces of fall color:

Contrast—Warm colors contrast when set against cool, green foliage. Contrast accentuates colors, makes them more vibrant so they really pop visually. They are opposites on the color wheel, or complimentary colors, which are most pleasing to the eye. In essence, they bring out the best in each other. Colors next to each other on the color wheel are also pleasing to the eye, which helps define why the reds, oranges and yellows of fall paired together are striking.

Texture—Different trees have varying leaf shapes, heights, bark colorations, leaf surfaces and fall colors that make yardscapes more visually appealing with depth, shape, form and tone.

Longevity—With variations in plantings, a homeowner benefits from colors changing over time. The key is to select trees and shrubs that change colors early-, mid- and late-fall. When they turn at different rates, color is prolonged and the desired warm and cool opposites exist.



Fall is a great time to plant many species of trees and shrubs. The Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery offers fall delivery in November for most hardwoods and shrubs. Visit our online store at Nursery.IowaDNR.gov to view seedling varieties and to place your fall order.