

OCTOBER



FALL LEAVES FALL

Come fall in Maryland, **LEAVES CHANGE** from green to gorgeous shades of red, orange, yellow and brown. After the colorful show, the leaves fall. The tree stands bare until the arrival of spring.

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN? It has to do with a plant's food and the time of year. Plants make their own food using sunlight and *chlorophyll* — the chemical that makes leaves green. Fewer hours of sunlight in the fall tells the trees that winter is coming and they can stop making so much food. The chlorophyll then breaks down and reveals the reds, yellows and oranges typically hidden by green. In the mean time, cells grow over spots where the leaves are attached in order to save water. Once the water is gone, the leaves dry out and fall to the ground.



CAN YOU TELL A TREE FROM ITS LEAF COLOR?

Use this guide to identify different **TREE SPECIES** around your neighborhood!

Oaks reddish brown

Hickories golden bronze

Dogwood purplish red

Birch bright yellow

Maple trees show a whole range of colors...

Sugar Maple orange-red

Black Maple glowing yellow

Red Maple bright scarlet

WORD SCRAMBLE

Help! Key words from this month's game have gotten scrambled. Rearrange the 10 groups of letters to the right to spell them correctly!

- wogodod _____
- evarnicb _____
- aempl _____
- ceepsis _____
- nuatum _____
- crhbi _____
- fluocro _____
- vsaele _____
- lyhclropol _____
- yhcikro _____

