



Why do leaves change colour?

Find out why trees turn red, yellow and gold in autumn.

Why do leaves change colour?

Chlorophyll (Kloro-fill)

Made in leaves on warm, sunny days.

Gives leaves their green colour.

Uses the sun's energy to turn water and carbon dioxide into sugars (this is photosynthesis).

Weather can affect leaf colour.

Dry, sunny days and cold nights mean bright, rich reds.

Cloudy, rainy days mean pale yellows.

Autumn

Shorter, colder days mean less sunlight.

Because of this, chlorophyll production stops.

As the green pigment fades, other colours are revealed...

Xanthophyll (zan-tho-fill)

Gives leaves their yellow colour.

Carotene (karo-tin)

Gives leaves their orange colour.

Anthocyanin (an-tho-sya-nin)

Gives leaves their red colour.

Predict what colour the leaves will be near you. Were you right?

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