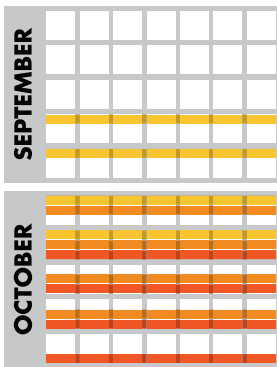


## EFFECTS OF FALL WEATHER

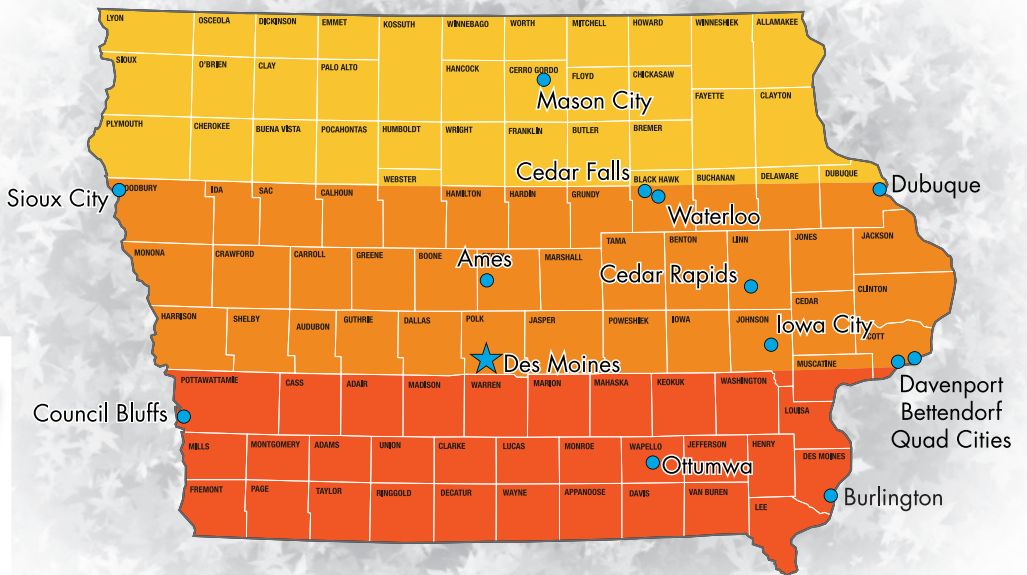
Weather throughout the fall season has much to do with the development of fall color in trees. Cool night temperatures destroy chlorophyll quickly, but below freezing temperatures inhibit production of red pigments. The brightest displays of color occur with an early fall of bright sunny days and cool nights, which result in excellent conditions for development of red pigments. Cloudy days and warm nights will produce less brilliant colors. Dry weather causes a greater buildup of sugars in the leaves, enhancing production of red pigments. Windy, rainy weather causes many leaves to fall prematurely, lessening the intensity of the display. A killing frost will destroy leaf cells, and the coloration process will not function effectively.

## WHEN DO THE COLORS PEAK?

On the average, peak fall color occurs in Northeast Iowa on the weekend closest to October 10. Peak fall color occurs later in the more southern parts of Iowa; however, as explained above, it all depends on variable conditions. Perhaps the most important thing about fall color is taking the time to enjoy it.



## BEST WEEKS TO CATCH FALL COLORS IN IOWA



#FALLINIOWA

SHARE YOUR FALL COLOR IMAGES



**LEAF COLOR CHARACTERISTICS OF SOME COMMON PLANTS**



**ASH**

Leaves turn yellow, but some have a purplish cast. Leaves fall after walnut but earlier than oaks and maples.



**BUR OAK**

Buff to yellow, then brown before falling.



**ELM**

Leaves turn yellow, some turn brown before falling, others while still yellow.



**HICKORY**

Leaves turn yellow, then brown before falling.



**MAPLE (SOFT)**

Leaves turn yellow. They don't turn brown before falling.



**MAPLE (HARD)**

Brilliant red hues. Red pigmentation of some leaves breaks down before falling.



**RED OAK**

Brilliant red leaves in fall. Color probably not as intense as some hard maples.



**SUMAC**

Redder than others, but often overlooked because it is a small tree confined to openings and edges.



**VIRGINIA CREEPER**

Bright red. Very spectacular when it grows on dead snags.



**WALNUT**

Turns yellow in fall. One of the first to turn and drop. One of the last to leaf out in the spring.



**WHITE OAK**

Subdued red color of leaves in fall. Then turn brown and often stay on the tree until new leaves begin to grow.



TAG YOUR FALL COLOR IMAGES ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM

**#FALLINIOWA**



IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
 TOURISM OFFICE  
 200 East Grand Avenue  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515.725.3084

traveliowa.com

