

Dry weather affecting autumn leaves colours

6th October, 2020



The changing of the colour of the autumn leaves is a spectacular, photogenic, natural event in many forests around the world. The myriad of golds, reds, yellows, greens and browns provide a colourful canvas that ushers in the end of summer. This year

in the USA, the autumn foliage has been adversely affected by drought conditions. The vibrant colours of the leaves have been dulled by unusually dry weather. Over 80 per cent of America's northwest is undergoing extreme conditions that are not conducive to perfect foliage. The traditional autumnal beauty spots of Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are experiencing severe drought, and lacklustre colours.

Dr. William Keeton, a forest ecology and forestry professor at the University of Vermont, explained why the adverse conditions were prevalent this year. He said: "It is due to a combination of factors, including good tree growth last year, mild drought and both warm days and cool nights over the last month." He added: "The colours this year are coming about two weeks earlier than normal and will probably go by fast and furiously. Largely, this is because the drought creates physiological stress for the trees." He warned: "The stress is not a good thing and may be a harbinger of things to come with climate change. In terms of fall foliage, drought can cause the leaves to die and fall off earlier."

The word "autumn" is UK English; in USA English it is "fall".

Sources: cnn.com / slashgear.com / cbslocal.com

Writing

The autumn foliage is nature's most beautiful event. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

colour / autumn / photogenic / golds / foliage / drought / extreme / beauty spots / prevalent / growth / normal / warm days / cool nights / trees / climate change / die

True / False

- a) The article said there was a photo competition about autumn colours. T / F
- b) An artist said she created a canvas to paint the autumn colours. T / F
- c) The vibrancy of the colours has been dulled by draughts. T / F
- d) Leaves in traditional autumnal beauty spots have lacked their lustre. T / F
- e) A professor in autumn and fall described the adverse conditions. T / F
- f) Good tree growth last year contributed to the duller colours this year. T / F
- g) The colours will arrive two weeks later than usual this year. T / F
- h) A professor said the autumn colours could be a sign of climate change. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. autumn | a. pressure |
| 2. myriad | b. locations |
| 3. ushers | c. colourless |
| 4. spots | d. mixture |
| 5. lacklustre | e. sees |
| 6. prevalent | f. usual |
| 7. combination | g. multitude |
| 8. normal | h. leaves |
| 9. stress | i. widespread |
| 10. foliage | j. fall |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of autumn?
- b) What is your favourite season?
- c) What do you think of the autumn foliage?
- d) Has your area been affected by any adverse weather?
- e) How important are forests?
- f) Do you have a favourite forest?
- g) What is your favourite tree?
- h) What is your favourite beauty spot?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. a spectacular, photogenic, | a. foliage |
| 2. The myriad | b. spots |
| 3. a colourful canvas that ushers | c. forestry professor |
| 4. The vibrant | d. of golds |
| 5. The traditional autumnal beauty | e. drought |
| 6. a forest ecology and | f. in the end of summer |
| 7. the adverse conditions were | g. for the trees |
| 8. mild | h. natural event |
| 9. the drought creates physiological stress | i. prevalent this year |
| 10. In terms of fall | j. colours of the leaves |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the foliage in your country's forests?
- What do you know about forestry?
- What would it be like to work in forestry?
- How do the autumn leaves make you feel?
- What stresses do trees feel?
- What do you think of climate change?
- What questions would you like to ask the professor?

Spelling

- ntcehgioop, natural event
- The ydrami of golds
- The rantbvi colours
- conditions that are not oiducevvn
- experiencing severe hdutrgo
- lecrakslut colours
- the aerevsd conditions
- enlvtprae this year
- a combination of arsctfo
- ilsilaocyhpgo stress for the trees
- a gihabrren of things to come
- In terms of fall fialoeg

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. g	3. e	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. f	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – August

You think August is the best month. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their months. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): September, October or November.

Role B – September

You think September is the best month. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their months. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): August, October or November.

Role C – October

You think October is the best month. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their months. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): September, August or November.

Role D – November

You think November is the best month. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their months. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): September, October or August.

Speaking – Months

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| • July | • November |
| • August | • December |
| • September | • January |
| • October | • February |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.