



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall, Why Do They Turn Colors?

by Herbert A. (Joe) Pase III Texas Forest Service Lufkin, Texas

Autumn is welcomed by many people. It marks the end of hot summer days and it is the time of year when tree leaves begin to show their beautiful colors. One of the biggest tourist attractions in New England is the fall leaf colors. The nice thing about living in East Texas is that vivid fall colors can be enjoyed without traveling half way across the US. A trip to the pine and hardwood forests of East Texas during October and November is sure to delight the eye. But why do the tree leaves develop the beautiful red, orange, and yellow colors in the fall of the year?

During most of the growing season, plants (including trees) produce a material called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll enables plants to convert water and carbon dioxide in the presence of sunlight into carbohydrates, which plants use for food. This process is called photosynthesis. Chlorophyll is what gives plants their green color. Tree leaves have other colors present most of the time, but the green chlorophyll is so dominant that it masks the other colors. Near the end of the growing season (autumn), chlorophyll production is reduced or stops and chlorophyll that is present in the leaves begins to break down. When this happens the yellow and orange pigments, called carotenes and xanthophylls, are unmasked and their colors become visible. Red, pink, and purple pigments may also develop.

Chlorophyll formation is sensitive to any factor that disturbs metabolic processes in the plant. Unfavorable levels of light, temperature, water, oxygen, and essential minerals will have an impact on how much chlorophyll a plant will produce. For instance, when a plant is lacking in nitrogen or iron (mineral deficiencies), or is grown in little or no light, it will develop a yellow or pale green color. It is said to be chlorotic, or lacking in chlorophyll. Water and heat stress (hot, dry weather) and cool temperatures (autumn) will destroy chlorophyll and allow carotenes and xanthophylls to be exposed. In most plants there is about three times as much chlorophyll as carotenes and xanthophylls.

Sometimes a genetic mutation in the plant will cause leaves to be variegated (part yellow and part green). The part of the leaf that is yellow lacks chlorophyll. Occasionally a mutation will occur where no chlorophyll is produced and a short-lived albino plant results. Occasionally bud mutations occur resulting in albino or variegated branches in otherwise normal (green) trees and shrubs. These color variations are not associated with fall leaf colors, but involve green and yellow pigments in the

leaves.

The discussion above explains why green and yellow colors are seen in the leaves of trees. A pigment called anthocyanin is responsible for the red, pink, and purple colors in leaves that are so attractive. This pigment forms in the sap of leaf cells, usually late in the growing season (autumn). Its formation is dependent on an accumulation of carbohydrates in the plant, on the genetic properties of the tree, and environmental factors. The most important environmental factors controlling autumn leaf coloration are temperature, light, and water. Cool temperatures (above freezing), drought, and bright sunny days favor the production of anthocyanin. Because they are exposed to the most sunlight, leaves in the upper crown usually develop the brightest red colors. On the other hand, several days of rainy or cloudy weather often decrease the intensity of fall colors. The bright red and orange fall colors for which maple trees are famous are due to the production of anthocyanin in the leaves. Also, sassafras, sweet gum, and sumac produce large amounts of anthocyanin, which accounts for their deep red colors. Trees of the same species growing close together often show much color variation. This is due to the tree's response to environmental factors and different mixtures of chlorophyll, carotenes, xanthophylls, and anthocyanin pigments that produce the red, orange, yellow, crimson, purple, and related colors in the leaves.

Some trees do not form anthocyanin pigments. When the amount of chlorophyll present in leaves begins to decline in the fall, the yellow carotenes and orange xanthophylls become visible. Hickory and elm leaves are an example of this since they often display bright yellow autumn colors. Oak leaves often turn brown with very little yellow or orange coloration. This is because they contain large amounts of tannin (brown color) and relatively few carotenes.

In summary, declining autumn temperatures result in reduced chlorophyll formation and the disintegration of chlorophyll already present. In other words, the green color begins to fade. At the same time stored carbohydrates aid in the production of anthocyanin (red, pink, and purple colors). As the levels of chlorophyll decline, the yellow carotenes and orange xanthophylls along with anthocyanin become visible. In short, the best autumn colors occur under conditions of clear, dry, and cool (but not freezing) weather.

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FROM THE FOREST



“From the driest hill in Camp County”...I started this column with that sentence back in the drought, and darned if it’s not still a true statement. My tally for the year so far is 60.2”, but Pittsburg and east are over 67”. Reckon we should be glad it isn’t snow.

The hills may be dry, but there is one spot in the drive that may turn into a pit. Drainage is tricky, and when I went to get the tractor to fix it, the clutch broke, no go. It’s taken a few days to dry up enough to get the truck in to haul the tractor to the shop. And now it’s going to rain again...

Ah, fall, Halloween and playing the World Series in the snow, as the politicians dither around inventing emergencies in Washington and mark time until their extended Christmas vacations begin...

Well, unlike those old boys, I do believe in term limits and see no point in dithering around. I have thought long and hard, and have decided not to run again for the NETFLA presidency. Four years, in my view, is enough. It’s too easy — at least for me — to get stale or in a rut. Besides, it may take a couple of years to get over the trauma of joining the Medicare and Social Security group. First time in my life I’ve been on the dole.

Getting back to the subject, I’ve always enjoyed membership in this outfit because of the people involved, their energy and sense of humor, and their willingness to create and take on new challenges. I see that continuing — especially since the August SFI meeting in Gilmer with its influx of new members and new possibilities. Most of you know Glenn and Judy Weiss, from Morris County, already, and you may have met Wayne Arnold, from Upshur County, at some of our meetings. Wayne did a lot of hard work on that Gilmer meeting and was one of the reasons it was so successful. I really think you will enjoy the new leadership and the spark they bring with them.

One of the things we discussed at the last directors meeting was the need to get more and younger people involved, and we invite you to participate in any way you choose. As I look out over the members at our meetings, I’m always struck by the fact that, unlike most groups, each and every one of you is a leader and an independent thinker. You have to be — it takes a rare person to be a forest landowner. Take a look at yourselves. We have engineers, bankers, military, scientists, farmers, investors, people from all disciplines. You may not consider yourselves an elite, but I do, and value your friendship.

Thank you all for the rare privilege and honor of driving the boat for a while. It’s been a hoot.

Bill Tucker

Save the Date -- The 2010 East Texas Timber Income and Timberland Property Tax Workshops

– Yanshu Li, Forest
Economist, Texas Forest Service, College
Station, TX

The 2010 East Texas Timber Income and Timberland Property Tax Workshops are now officially scheduled for January 26-28, 2010. Texas Forest Service will host the workshops at three locations: Mt. Pleasant (Jan.26), Palestine (Jan. 27), and Livingston (Jan. 28). The workshops will focus on federal income tax laws related to timber and recent updates as well as timberland property tax issues in Texas.

Landowners, consulting foresters, public accountants, and loggers are encouraged to participate. The workshop qualifies for continuing education credits: CFE (foresters) 5.5 hours, CLE (loggers) 5.5 hours and CPE (CPAs) 5.5 hours.

Speakers include Dr. Linda Wang, a national forest tax specialist for the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, GA; Dr. John Greene, research economist for the USDA Forest Service in New Orleans, LA and co-author of *Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax*; and Dr. Yanshu Li, forest economist with Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX.

Exhibitors and vendors are invited to display their products and services. Details regarding registration and how to reserve exhibit space will soon be posted on the TFS website soon. Please check <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu> for updates. For more information, please contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or email mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu.

“Pineywoods Post” Coming Soon to E-mail Boxes

Texas Parks & Wildlife is starting a quarterly electronic newsletter called the *Pineywoods Post*. It will have management tips, animal profiles, and other interesting articles geared towards the Pineywoods. They are requesting email addresses of those who would like to receive this electronic newsletter.

If you would like to receive this publication, please contact:

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Conservation Steward- ship Program (CSP) Sign-Up Available Now

Through CSP, Natural Resources Conservation Services will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, **nonindustrial private forest lands**, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land.

According to Don Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist for Texas, this is for the “best of the best stewards. We have many land stewards in Texas that are worthy of the recognition, and I encourage them to apply”.

For more information, please see www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp or contact your local USDA – NRCS field office.

Texas Forestry Association Initiates “For Mem- bers Only” Webpage

Texas Forestry Association (TFA) announced that it now has a Members Area section on their website (<http://www.texasforestry.org/>) which will house information, programs, and other items available to TFA members only. Currently, five webinar videos are hosted in this section with more to come at a later date. To obtain login information, email sstutts@texasforestry.org.

The TFA homepage also offers information about TFA and other advantages of becoming a member. This information can also be obtained by calling (936) 632-8733.

Forest History Society - Videos Available on Website

The Forest History Society offers history buffs a wide selection of videos of forestry as practiced in days gone by. You can view videos of old logging operations (such as steam donkey logging and river log drives among many others) and Smokey Bear public service announcements (Kukla and Ollie, Vaughn Monroe) at <http://www.youtube.com/foresthistory#p/>. Other selections are also available there from documentaries such as “Up in Flames”, “Timber on the Move” and “The Greatest Good”. On the homepage, enter “logging video” or “Smokey video” in the Search box.

Phorid Flies' Foray Turning Fire Ants into Zombies in Texas

– *online High Plains Journal, September, 2009*

Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts expect life to be harder for red imported fire ants in some portions of Texas.

Phorid flies, enemies of fire ants, have been introduced in Red River County, and established populations have spread through areas of Denton County (2 releases since 2004). A new species of phorid fly was released north of Overton in Rusk County in April where AgriLife Extension entomologists hope they will eventually establish themselves as the others did near Dallas. Phorids have already been established in 10 sites in southern and central Texas. Their populations have spread to 97 counties in Texas.

“The flies as a biological control hold

promise for suppressing red imported fire ants,” said AgriLife Extension agent Lynn Golden, based in Clarksville. “They don't promise to eradicate the ants. They're just another way to help control them.”

Native to South America, phorids and other predators keep red imported fire ants in check. Female flies attack the ants and lay eggs in their bodies. Larvae will then hatch and burrow into the ants' heads. Their growth and subsequent release of enzymes cause the heads to fall off. (Hence, the fire ants obtain the moniker - “Zombies”.) Mature flies eventually emerge from the decapitated heads, and the cycle starts over.

“The flies attack and eventually kill the ants, but their real impact is that they stalk the fire ants when they're foraging,” said Kim Schofield, an AgriLife Extension program specialist in Dallas. “That reduces foraging activity which, in turn, helps limit food within the fire ant colony.”

More information is available in *Introducing Phorid Fly Parasitoids of Red Imported Fire Ant Workers from South America to Texas: Outcomes Vary by Region and by Pseudacteon Species Released*, by L. A. Gilbert, C. L. Barr, A. A. Calixtro, J. L. Cook, B. M. Drees, E. G. LeBrun, R. J. Patrock, R. M. Plowes, S. D. Porter, R. T. Puckett. (2008. *Southwestern Entomologist* 33(1):15-30).

For additional information on fire ants in Texas, go to <http://fireant.tamu.edu>, <http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/fireant> and <http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/fireant/Maps.html>.

FAQ's about imported fire ants- <http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/fireant/FAQ%20Answers.html>

For a video presentation regarding “Zombie ants” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZm2FwdHIJY>.

Market Report – July/August, 2009

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Weight Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$22.81/ton	\$178.54/mbf	\$23.28/ton	\$180.31/mbf	-2%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.85/ton	\$15.80/cord	\$5.38/ton	\$14.49/cord	+9%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$11.80/ton	\$31.85/cord	\$9.78/ton	\$26.41/cord	+21%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$19.07/ton	\$171.64/mbf	\$17.93/ton	\$161.36/mbf	+6%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$4.47/ton	\$12.52/cord	\$5.97/ton	\$16.74/cord	-25%

See [Timber Price Trends](http://texasforests.tamu.edu) at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu> for more detailed information. Copies can be purchased from the Texas Forest Service, Office of the Director, John B. Connally Building, 301 Tarrow, Suite 364, College Station, TX 77840-7896. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale, who is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner.

1. Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.
2. Stumpage price statistics include gateway sales. They are estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses, and profits provided by the reporter.
3. Price is calculated from a specific conversion factor for each sale, if available; otherwise the average conversion factors listed on page 8 of Timber Price Trends are used. MBF = Thousand Board Feet. Doyle Log Scale used for board foot measurements.
4. * indicates insufficient sales to report price statistics (less than 3 sales).
5. Prices listed for previous periods may differ from previously published values because additional data have been received.

Herbicide Workshop, SFASU College of Forestry & Agriculture.

Date: Dec. 8, 2009

Cost is \$50.00 with lunch provided. There will be CEU's for TDA applicator recertification as well as the latest information on noncrop pine control, mid-rotation yaupon control and product development.

More details can be found at: <http://forestry.sfasu.edu/conferences/herbicide-workshop.html>. Registration information is forthcoming.

NETFLA Contest Notes

The winner of the TFA membership contests for Landowner Associations remains unknown at this time. I think we probably will have lost for the first time in six years, primarily because we signed up so many new members this year who are not also TFA members.

The way I look at it, we really won, and so did TFA. TFA because it restores competitive spirit to the other landowner associations and helps grow TFA membership, and NETFLA because it grows our own member base. We can explain the benefits of TFA membership to our own members, and most will join over time. We may have to buy our own lunch this year, but we'll be back!

The winner of our own NETFLA membership contest will be announced at our November meeting.



Websites of Interest

US Forest Service Cooperative Forestry's list of links regarding **Forest Taxation** - <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

New Wildlife Tax Valuation Bill – <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/81R/billtext/pdf/SB00801L.pdf>. Application forms available at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-129.pdf> (select wildlife management option) and http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd_885_w7000_open_space_agric_valuation_wildlife_mgmt_plan.pdf. All information to be submitted to your chief appraiser.

Texas Wildscapes Interactive Habitat Planning DVD (free). Based on the book, "Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife" - <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildscapes/>

Texas Forestry Museum Video Collection – "History of Sawmill Towns in East Texas"; "Identifying Common East Texas Trees"; "Papermaking in East Texas"; "Careers in Forestry"; Wildlife in East Texas" – <http://www.treetexas.com/exhibits/main.shtm>

Non-Timber Forest Products - http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu/special_fp.htm

The Hardwood Defect Trainer – http://forest.mtu.edu/research/hwbuck/hardwood_defects/index.html

Columbia Regional Geospatial Service Center (satellite imagery of the Lone Star State) - <http://www.crgsc.org/>

Don't Forget! Texas Elections Tuesday November 3

The Constitutional Amendments passed by the 2009 Legislature are on the ballot. This is your chance to vote directly on the laws that will govern our state in the future.

There are 11 proposed amendments on the ballot. Three of these are concerned with eminent domain and landowner rights. All should be studied closely, since the language can be deceptive.

Speaking from experience as an election judge, almost no one will vote. If you vote, you will probably be among the 5-10% who do. Now **that's real power!**

ONE VOTE COUNTS — YOURS!

Did You Know That...

- In 1645 — one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649 — one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- In 1776 — one vote gave America the English language... instead of German.
- In 1839 — one vote elected Marcus Morton to be Governor of Massachusetts.
- In 1845 — one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1876 — one vote changed France from a monarchy into a republic.
- In 1923 — one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

Will yours make the difference?

**NORTHEAST TEXAS FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
BALLOT FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2008 AND 2009**

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to vote (full members only), use this ballot and return to the PO Box on the back of this form. Those attending will vote at the meeting.
Please check or X the box next to the candidate for whom you are voting.

PRESIDENT

- GLENN WEISS
- WRITE-IN _____

VICE PRESIDENT

- WAYNE YOUNG
- WRITE-IN _____

SECRETARY/TREASURER

- BLANCHE HANDY-SPARKS
- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM CAMP COUNTY

- BOB TURNER
- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY

- HARRY EARL
- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM MORRIS COUNTY

- BEN BEST
- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM TITUS COUNTY

WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM UPSHUR COUNTY

- KEN STEWART
- WRITE-IN _____

DIRECTOR FROM WOOD COUNTY

- LARRY HOFFMAN
- WRITE-IN _____

According to the Bylaws, only FULL members WHOSE DUES ARE CURRENT may vote in this election, and the person submitting an absentee ballot must sign and date the ballot so their dues status may be verified. If you wish to get current, enclose a check for \$15 with your ballot.

Signature _____

Date:

Printed Signature _____

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