

# AUTUMN IN ABUNDANCE

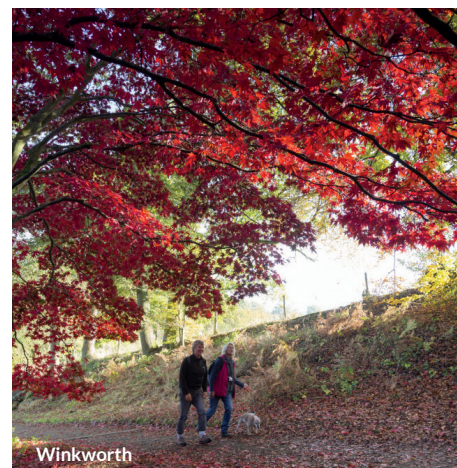
Where to see explosive autumnal hues in their prime and how to bring a bonfire of colour to your own back garden



Morden Hall Park



Wisley



Winkworth

## WINKWORTH ARBORETUM

This enchanting woodland lies just south of Guildford and is home to an extraordinary range of trees that transform every autumn time with a fiery palette. Liquidambar, hickory, tulip trees and burgundy maple trees are just some of the species that were carefully cultivated by the arboretum's founder, Dr. Fox, who planned the landscape like an artist with a paintbrush. Make your way through the foliage and follow the track deep into the valley where breaks in the treeline make for wonderful vistas overlooking the pastoral countryside in the clutches of autumn. One such view looks out onto Winkworth's pristine lake where nature's colours are reflected onto the water and the arboretum's signature lake house emerges out of the hanging mist.

## MORDEN HALL PARK

Morden Hall Park is dissected by the meandering River Wandle and characterised by its quaint footbridges and 18th century snuff mills that hark back to park's industrial heyday. Now a National Trust-owned green space, visitors can discover a seasonal spectacle of bountiful hues in autumn, with lime trees and dramatic horse chestnuts lining wide avenues and bursting into a profusion of colour. The estate's rose garden flourishes in the summer, but when the roses turn with the season, the garden's ginkgo biloba trees and hornbeams are in their element. The acer cappadocicum found near Phipps Bridge also transforms to a bright yellow, contrasting brilliantly against the dark earthy tone of the tree bark.

## KEW GARDENS ARBORETUM

Kew is synonymous with its opulent Victorian greenhouses, but covering two-thirds of the gardens and home to an astonishing 14,000 trees is Kew's expansive arboretum. With an ancient variety and more than 2,000 different types, including rare specimens, this section of the grounds explodes with colour during the autumn months. The best spot to absorb the sheer diversity of the woodland is from the elegant bridge crossing which winds over the arboretum lake. Dotted across the water are four islands home to Chinese tupelo trees which cast a pristine mirrored reflection of colour. Kew also hosts a treetop walkway where you can enjoy a different vista altogether from 18 metres above the forest floor.

## WISLEY

The historic home of horticulture, Wisley hosts a plant collection spanning 240 magnificent acres and is one of the largest in the world. The grounds have been carefully cultivated to ensure that every inch responds to seasonal change in its own glorious way, with autumn an annual highlight. The ground's Seven Acres is a beautiful corner where the Liquidambar, Taxodium and Aster transform spectacularly with a psychedelic display of oranges, crimsons and golden foliage. Howard's Field is a romantic clearing home to an autumnal heather collection with dainty dew-spotted carpets of pinks and purple cyclamen crocus flowers. The ground's Pinetum is a magnificent tree collection made up of evergreen conifers that contrast against deciduous plants, and the Orchard is not to be missed in the autumn months.

**Boston ivy** – A popular vine that gives out a shocking bright red in autumn and favoured for its easy maintenance and old university library look.

**Callicarpa bodinieri** - This plant begins with a fantastic floral display with lilac-tinted flowers in the summer, before flowering warm red berries and finally exhibiting a wintery purple tint, bringing a pop of colour among a garden of reds and oranges.

**Chinese Virginia creeper** – A deciduous climber known for subtle tinges of red and deep mossy greens. Best planted on a north-facing wall, although its colour becomes more dramatic with sun.

**Disanthus** – Recreate the vibrancy of Winkworth in your garden with a Disanthus tree. They are small but still pack a punch with their bold red hue and pretty papery leaves. They grow best in full sun or part shade and need protection from strong winds and harsh winter frosts.

**Cotoneasters** – Flowering plants belonging to the rose family, cotoneasters beautifully deepen come autumn time, revealing bright red berries. The plant is versatile and can be trained against a wall like its rose siblings.

**Japanese mahonia** - A wild-looking shrub that comes into its own come autumn-time developing deep red and sunset orange fringes. It's great for small spaces given its manageable size and is easy to maintain, tolerating all types of soil.