JENEEN

Signs of fall senescence

to tell me the seasons are about to change; there are

so many other little things to observe that help me make the transition. Gossamer webs floating in the air, the long shadows of a sun falling slowly in the southern sky, walnuts hidden in the grass, and robins flocking in search of crabapples and other fall fruit.

These are the signs of fall to me; they prove mostly comforting but also remind me that I need to get ready for the first frost and inevitable hard freeze, after which there is no turning back. Maybe we will have a brief return to summer, with a warm stretch in November, maybe not.

No matter, the tropical house plants are making their way back into the house where they will take up residence in a sunny window, most will be put on a diet of little water and no food so they can rest a bit through the short days of winter. Orchids sit on my desk in the sun; I'll wait for the emerging sheaths to

don't just rely on fall color turn to bloom later in the winter. The holiday cacti and amaryllis will sit in a room

> that has natural light so they will set their buds accordingly.

But the thing that really steals the show this time of the year is, indeed, what we call fall. The senescence of foliage is a remark-

able physiological **WICHE** response that marks part of the seasonal cycle for deciduous plants.

Bernd Heinrich, in his book Summer World, discusses the likely evolutionary response to snow and ice load. Trees with broad leaves learned that shedding leaves in fall would reduce the damage that may occur in winter if there was ice and snow. So, over a very long period of time the art of senescence by deciduous trees was perfected to maximize the storage of food, refresh your foliage, and provide a rest up top while continuing to establish a stronger root system below. Plus, all those falling leaves in the fall turned into organic matter which the tree could snack on for the rest of the winter. That's sustainable.

So, I have been waiting for the color to start draining from the leaves...its early October, after all. But for many in Kentuckiana the recent dry spell may make for an early (and less colorful) senescence. Drought conditions also make for a faster leaf drop which is a survival mechanism since trees transpire moisture through their foliage. Interestingly, those fall colors are always there; they are just waiting for the green produced by chlorophyll to drain back into the tree for stored energy during dor-

mancy. Here's what happens in the seasonal cycle of a tree: during the long days of summer trees are continuously replenishing their supply of chlorophyll, which uses sunlight and carbon dioxide to make food for the tree in the form of carbohydrates. As the days get shorter and the amount of sunlight decreases, trees take what chlorophyll is left and drain it back into the tree for stored energy. As the chlorophyll drains from the leaves the fall color is revealed.

What makes for the rainbow of colors underneath

the mask of chlorophyllgreen? Pigments called carotenoids (yellow, brown, and orange), anthocyanin (reds and purples), and a combination of the two create the dramatic reds, bronze and bright orange found in sumacs and oaks.

The carotenoid pigments are always present in the leaves, but the anthocyanins are produced later in the summer, triggered by cooler evening temperatures and shorter days. More anthocyanins will be produced if this time period is warm and sunny because it allows for extra sugar production. More sugar means more intense color and more sugar means more sun; so, a late summer with clear sunny days and cool nights means more vibrant fall color. It seems like some of us may be on track for some good fall color if you did get some rain in late summerwe did and we are having clear days and cool nights so I am optimistic that we will see some color. The black gum is showing some red and it's usually the first to turn. But, for now, I'll be watching the robins, squirrels and spiders for my autumn correlation.

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Donald Christopher Green and Julie Ann Anders of the estate of Mary Carolyn Green has filed a final settlement and a hearing for confirmation and approval will be held on 11/19/2025 in the Marion County District Court. Any exceptions of objections to such settlement must be filed prior to that date. CASE # 23-P-00064

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SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

top seed in the tournament and played host Hart County in the second round on Monday night. The Raiders edged Campbellsville 1-0 to advance to the semifinals.

In the loss to Elizabeth-

town, Marion County managed only one goal against the Panthers, a penalty kick from Jackson Truitt. Elizabethtown proved to be a tougher opponent than its record revealed as the Panthers have played a top notch schedule according to Knight Coach

the Knights also lost the services of senior Camden Murphy for the first round of the district after receiving two yellow cards during the game.

The Knights shut out Hart County in its previous meeting 4-0 and Clements seems confident that his team is prepared Clements. Unfortunately, after its own tough schedule

of opponents.

'We're getting our wheels turning and getting ready. We've got to show up and play our game and pick up the slack," he said.

If victorious on Monday, the Knights will face either LaRue County or Taylor County in the finals at 6 p.m. tonight at Hart County High School.

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