



NEW ENGLAND
FORESTRY
FOUNDATION

A GUIDE TO NEW ENGLAND'S FALL FOLIAGE

FALL 2026

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE



LEAF ANATOMY & ID

A close-up look at leaf anatomy and how those features help you identify different tree species by their leaves.



TREE SPECIES

A visual guide to which colors our most iconic New England tree species turn during the fall season, and a special species feature on the sugar maple tree.

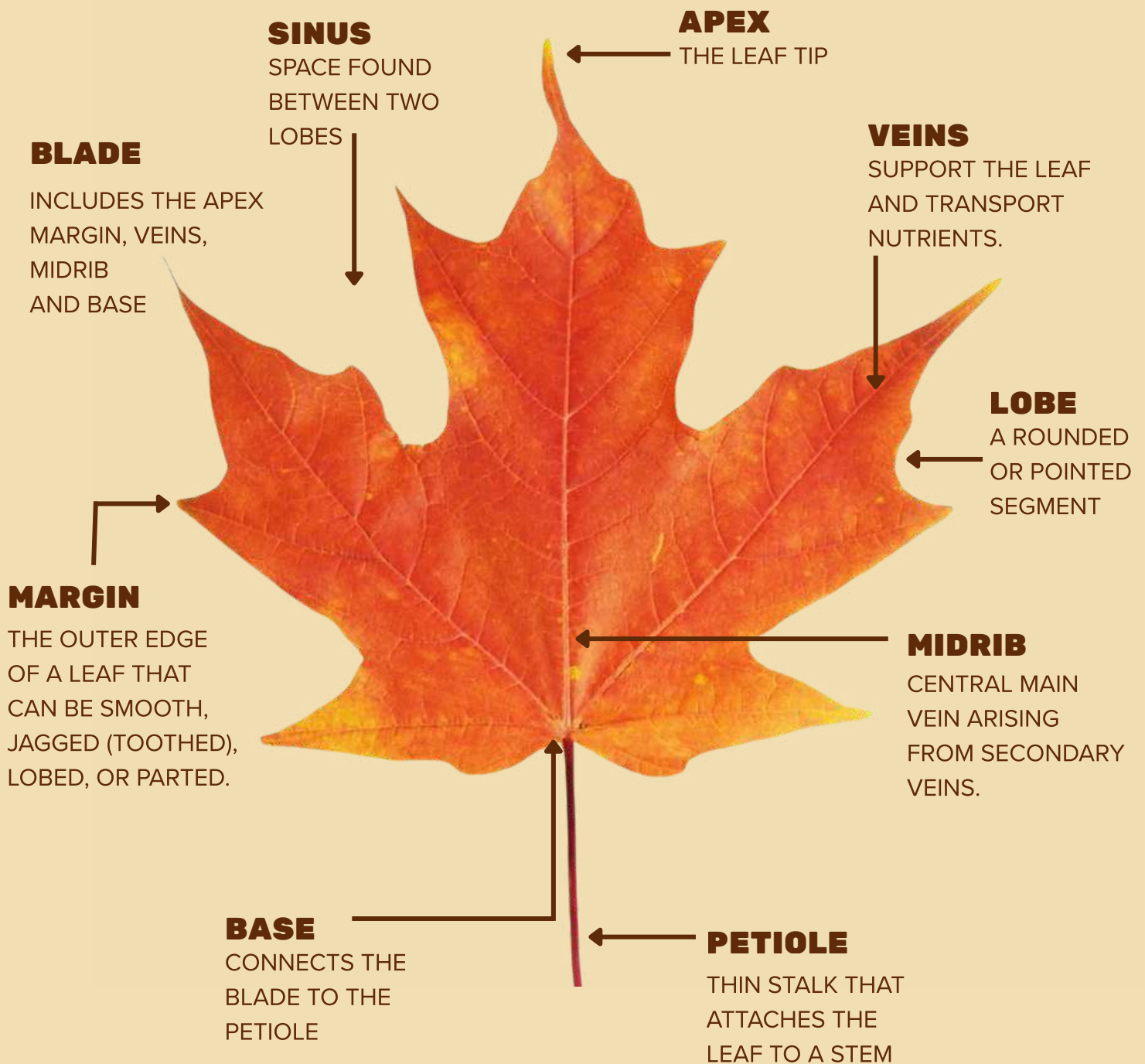


COMMUNITY FORESTS

Bring the whole family for a fall hike through some of New England's most beautiful forests! NEFF owns and manages more than 150 Community Forests across the region, keeping nearly all of them open from dawn to dusk, FREE for everyone to enjoy. Check out our favorite fall foliage forests by state.

ANATOMY OF A LEAF

FEATURING THE SUGAR MAPLE LEAF



LEAF IDENTIFICATION

FOR COMMON NEW ENGLAND TREE SPECIES



RED MAPLE

3 LARGE
LOBES



SUGAR MAPLE

5 LARGE
LOBES



ASPEN

ROUNDED,
FINE TOOTHED



**PAPER
BIRCH**

POINTED TIP,
LARGE TEETH



**SHAGBARK
HICKORY**

5 LEAFLETS



**WHITE
OAK**

ROUNDED LOBES,
DEEP SINUSES

WHICH TREE SPECIES TURN WHICH COLOR



RED MAPLE

SCARLET
RED



SUGAR MAPLE

ORANGE
RED



ASPEN

GOLDEN
YELLOW



**PAPER
BIRCH**

GOLDEN
YELLOW



**SHAGBARK
HICKORY**

GOLDEN
BRONZE



**WHITE
OAK**

RED, BROWN
OR RUSSET

THE SUGAR MAPLE

FEATURED TREE SPECIES

Acer saccharum

Hardwood

Deciduous

Height: Average 80-100 ft (up to 150 ft) | **Age:** More than 400 years

Fall Foliage: Leaves change in the fall when green-tinted chlorophyll breaks down in the cooler weather. Sugar maples change to hues ranging from yellow to bright orange and deep red.

Wildlife:

Sugar maples provide important food and shelter for wildlife, including squirrels, deer, moose, songbirds, and insects.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers also drill into their bark to feed on the tree's sugar-rich sap and the insects it attracts.

Growth Conditions:

They grow best in rich, well-drained soils. Owners often cut down other species to form pure stands, known as "sugar bushes," to tap them for sap to make maple syrup.

Timber Products:

Flooring, exquisite furniture, bowling alley lanes, musical instruments, and baseball bats.



NEFF COMMUNITY FORESTS

**OUR TOP NEFF COMMUNITY FORESTS
BY STATE TO EXPLORE DURING FALL FOLIAGE**

NEFF owns and manages more than 150 Community Forests across New England, keeping nearly all of them open from dawn to dusk, **FREE** for everyone to enjoy. Check out our favorite fall foliage forests by state:

MAINE



**Bragdon
Hill Forest**
Poland, ME



**Venture Brook
Community Forest**
Edmunds, ME



**Bliss Woods
Preserve**
Freeport, ME

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DIGITAL TRAIL MAPS!](#)

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Whitten Woods
Ashland, NH



**Chamberlin Reynolds
Memorial Forest**
Center Harbor, NH



**Lincoln Davis-Cabot-
Morse Memorial Forest**
Sharon/Temple, NH

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VERMONT



**Braintree
Mountain Forest**
Braintree, VT



**Hawk's Hill
Demonstration Forest**
Barnard, VT



**Weeks
Memorial Forest**
Guilford, VT (TBD)

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MASSACHUSETTS



Rice Sanctuary
Peru, MA



**Prouty Woods
Community Forest**
Littleton, MA



**Phelon
Memorial Forest**
Granville, MA

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CONNECTICUT



**Kimball
Memorial Forest**
Pomfret, CT



**Niantic River Headwaters
Community Forest**
East Lyme, CT

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ENJOY THE FALL FOLIAGE!

Enjoyed this guide? Support our work!
Your contribution helps NEFF pioneer forest-based
climate solutions, conserve working forestland, and
steward the more than 1.2 million acres NEFF has
already protected for future generations.

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