

Hello Trees Resource Sheet

What to look for outdoors in Spring

Leaf colour in Spring



Have a magnifying glass with you.

We are going to go what I call 'bronze prospecting'.



Here are oak leaves when they first come out. They are yellow-green - almost see-through.



And here is a twig that fell off an oak tree soon after the leaves came out.



Can you see in the close-up the pink-red-brown colour in the leaves?

I shall call the colour 'bronze'.



I wonder why the leaves are bronze at this stage.

For more about the colour in leaves see '[How and why of leaf colour in Spring](#)'.



For now, we are simply going to enjoy roaming round the trees and hedges and other woody plants looking at the colour of their new leaves.

If we want to, we could count the number of leaves that are

- all green
- all bronze
- mostly green with touches of bronze

We could think of words to describe the colours we see:

- red, brick, crimson, copper, pink-brown, bronze, my school blazer
- magenta, maroon, indigo, purple, my granny's cardigan
- brown, burnt sienna, khaki, my dog Pawpaw
- old gold, mustard, ochre, tawny, yellow-brown, marmalade, our door mat

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You might like to draw the shape of your leaves and then say whether they are

- floppy or stiff,
- crinkled or smooth,
- shiny or mat,
- hairy or bald.

You might be able to say what kind of tree the leaf is on.

Here are some shades of bronze that I found in young leaves.



Young oak leaf



Young sycamore leaf



Young poplar leaf



Young mountain ash leaf



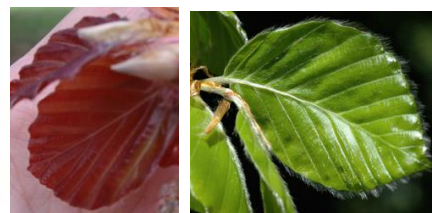
Young hawthorn leaves

I found that I could almost always find a tinge of bronze somewhere on new leaves. Did you?

However, I couldn't find any trace of bronze on green beech leaves – nor green on copper beech leaves.

Did you find that?

What I did notice was that all new beech leaves have a fringe of hairs round their edges. Did you?



Young beech leaves

Do let us know how you get on.

You could leave a visitor post on the [Hello Trees Facebook page](#).



For more about trees, fun things to look for and do indoors and outdoors, and about Hello Trees books, see the [Hello Trees website](#).