



## The Autumn Show at the Artois Pavilion of Wespelaar Arboretum

1 - An aerial view of the Arboretum towards the east, captures the glory of autumn colours on *Liquidambar*, *Carya*, *Nyssa* and maples. In the distance, the Artois Pavilion hides a good *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wisley Bonfire' which deserves its fiery cultivar name.

2 - *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Lane Roberts' is one of the oldest trees planted in the Arboretum. It has a generous rounded shape and glorious colours every year. To the right of the picture, *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Sheffield Park', one of the best of old selections, is starting to colour.

3 - The oak woodland of the Marnef Wood was planted in the 1880's. After thinning and selection of the best trees (*Quercus robur*), this cathedral like site has welcomed collections of maples and other shrubs which enjoy the shade of the woodland.

4 - Japanese maples have been cultivated and improved over centuries by Japanese horticulturists. *Acer palmatum* has seen hundreds of cultivars selected and named; all kind of shapes and colours are available today. *Acer palmatum* 'Samidare' (**4a**, **4b**) is a golden form whereas 'Orangeola' (**4c**) is a deep purple, cut leaf, weeping form. *Acer palmatum* 'Inazuma' (**4d**) is more typical of a purple leaved selection of *Acer palmatum*.

5 - The samaras of the Japanese maples contribute to the autumn show here on *Acer palmatum* 'Emperor 1' (**5a**). This Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*, **5b**) was raised from seed collected in Rice Sanctuary, Massachusetts in 1997. It has developed into an amazing fastigiate plant.

6 - *Acer buergerianum* (**6a**) has reached us from China. Its triangular leaf has earned him the name of trident maple. It is a well-known and effective candidate for the bonsai (**6b**) collection, an elegant Japanese form of horticultural art.

7 - *Carya glabra* (**7a**) is one of the best hickories for autumn colour. It belongs to the walnut family, but it does not have the edible nuts of a Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*). This beautiful *Fraxinus americana* 'Bash Bish Falls' (**7b**) was collected in Western Massachusetts. Unfortunately, it colours too early in the season and may disappoint the late visitor to our autumn show.

8 - Maples are not the only trees to show good colours; *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold' (**8a**) is well named. The Cherry birch (*Betula lenta*, **8b**) lightens up this conifer plantation. The rare *Ulmus lamellosa* (**8c**) has reached us from China. Happily, it has not (yet) been hit by the elm disease. *Cotinus obovatus* (**8d**) is only a shrub but it is unmistakably brilliant in the garden.

9 - Autumn is also the normal time for fruiting and *Phellodendron amurense* var. *lavalleei* (**9a**) is no exception. It is well known for its corky bark. *Liriodendron* 'Chapel Hill' (**9b**) is a wonderful hybrid between the American (*L. tulipifera*) and Chinese (*L. chinense*) tulip trees. It will have deep golden flowers and later in the season this typical aggregate of fruits.

10 - This *Zelkova serrata* (**10a**) was born from a fruit collected at Kalmthout Arboretum in 1968. It colours early, well before other plants around it. *Pseudolarix amabilis* (**10b**) is a rare conifer from China; it would prefer a warmer climate and remains a low, broad-branched tree in our maritime climate. *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Herkenrode' (**10c**) is a very early colouring selection raised from a seed of a tree in bed 19 of the Geographical Arboretum at Tervuren. *Stewartia x henryae* (**10d**) is a hybrid between *S. pseudocamellia* and *S. monadelpha* and one of our best *Stewartia* for autumn colour.

11 - Early November and *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Sheffield Park' is now in full autumn glory; it may soon hide the church of Wespelaar. To the right, a small and weeping *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Autumn Cascades' is less impressive but might hopefully cascade one day all the way into the pond.

12 - American oaks are among the most colourful: a specimen of white oak (*Quercus alba* 'Laura', **12a**) is here being admired by a delegation of the International Dendrology Society. This selection of scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea* 'Splendens', **12b**) is probably the best of all. *Quercus* 'Pondaim' (**12c**) is a hybrid of *Q. pontica* from Turkey with *Q. dentata* of Northeastern China, Korea and Northern Japan. It holds on to its leaves until spring. *Quercus serrata* 'Herkenrode' (**12d**) is a selection from a batch of seedlings collected in Northern Honshu in Japan, selected and raised at Wespelaar.

13 - *Sassafras albidum* (**13a**) is a dangerously suckering tree which should be planted in a meadow to be grazed by cattle or on a lawn and mowed. It has aromatic leaves that show great variation in shape: some are irregularly lobed, while others have no lobes at all. *Nyssa sylvatica* (**13b**) is less of a problem. Good colouring leaves will contrast with the unfortunately not very edible fruits.

14 - This big *Magnolia fraseri* (**14a**) from the Appalachian forests of Northeast America is much admired by our visitors. The fruits of this native species are logically modest but those of *Magnolia* 'Big Dude' (**14b**), a hybrid of *M. sprengeri* x *M. 'Picture'*, are massively fertile with up to a hundred seeds per infructescence every year.

15 - The pomes of *Crataegus macracantha* (**15a**) contain several seeds and are eaten by birds throughout the winter. The fruits of *Carpinus japonica* (**15b**) are hidden under this conspicuous bell like set of triangular bracts.

16 - The fruits of *Asimina triloba* (**16a**), the Pawpaw of native American tribes, are just edible. It is best to have several trees growing together to encourage fertilisation. The extraordinary capsule of the fruits of *Euonymus americanus* (**16b**) are its main interest: the pink capsule opens to show attractive orange seeds, later dispersed by birds. The cones of *Pseudolarix amabilis* (**16c**) will break up on the tree; every seed with its individual wing will then be dispersed by the wind. The small apples of *Malus* 'Evereste' (**16d**) are there for beauty.

17 - After its magnificent flowering, *Koeleruteria paniculata* (**17a**) will produce the curious lantern like capsules which will probably help the seed to float on rivers or be dispersed by wind. *Sorbus pseudovilmorinii* (**17b**), a small tree from Yunnan, Sichuan and neighbouring Vietnam, resembles our common Rowan; it will hold on to its berries well into winter until birds have plucked them all.

18 - *Stewartia rostrata* (**18a**) is grown for its autumn colour and its camellia-like flower. The pointed spike on its capsule (a roster) justifies its name. The violet drupes of this *Callicarpa americana* hybrid (**18b**) provide for a good combination with its pink leaves, here further enhanced in the background, by the leaves of *Carya glabra*. *Franklinia alatamaha* (**18c**) only flowers in September. This eastern United States tree has disappeared in nature in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has survived because it was planted in a garden in Philadelphia. *Clerodendrum trichotomum* (**18d**) is but a shrub but its fruiting remains very spectacular thanks to the pink sepals and blue drupes.

19 - Autumn is also the time for a show by our various native mushrooms: one of the most spectacular is the fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*, **19a**). Although very beautiful, like all *Amanita*, it is not edible. *Armillaria ostoyae* (**19b**), a form of honey fungus, is edible when young. *Chlorophyllum rhacodes* (**19c**) is a saprophyte under our *Metasequoia*. The earth star (*Gastrum triplex*, **19d**) opens up on the background of leaves and two fruits of *Disanthus cercidifolius*. A baby frog may have some difficulty getting through next winter.

20 - Early mist rises from the calm surface on the Artois Pond, an ideal mirror for the fountain. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Gum Ball', a rounded dwarf selection is starting to colour.