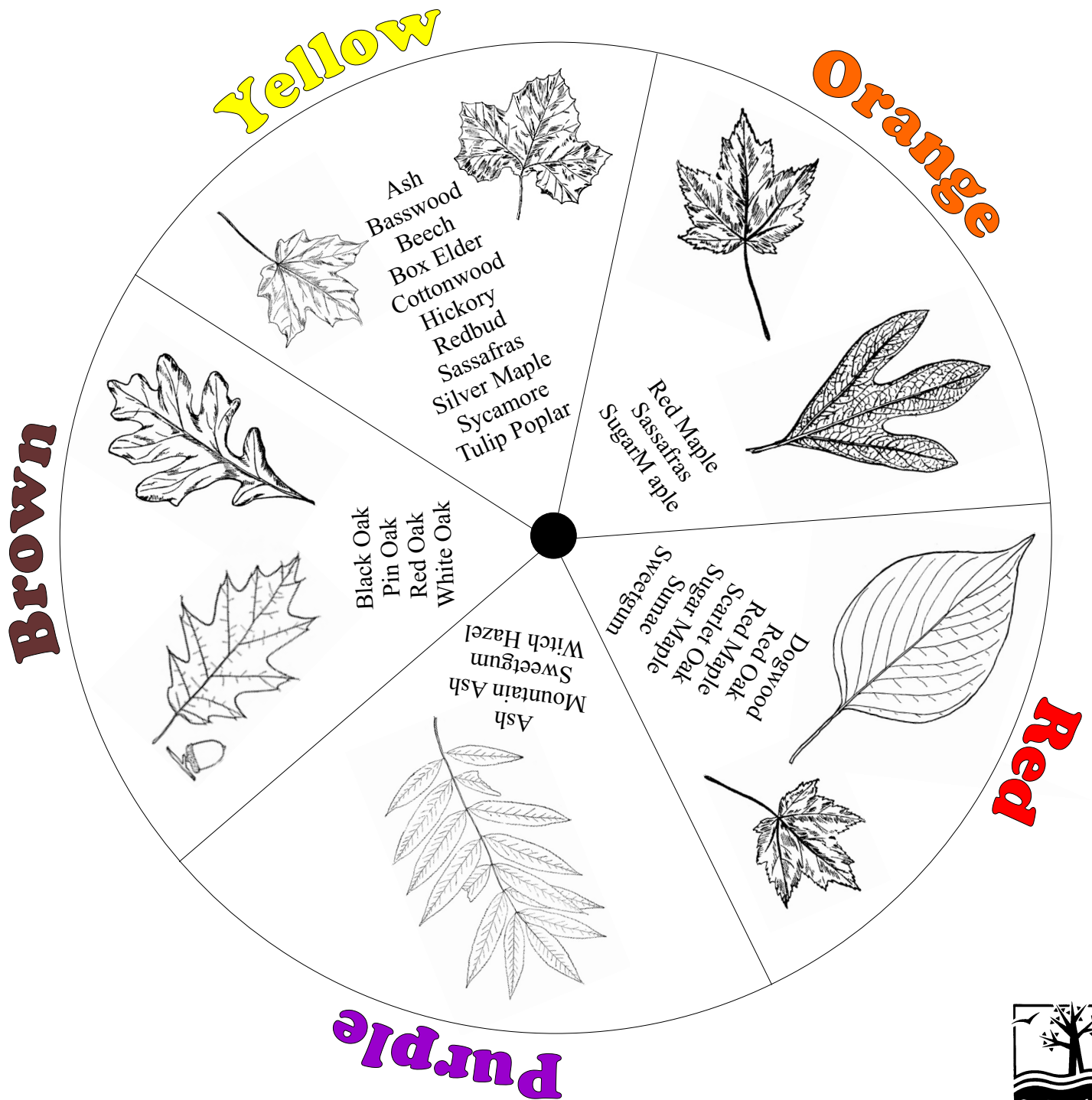


# Fall Color Chart

Certain tree species almost always lead off our regional color display. Walnuts, mountain ash, and tulip poplar are among the earliest to change. Individual leaves on the same tree can turn varying shades, but most species have a trademark fall coloration. Remember when consulting the chart below, that conditions can alter the color and its intensity.



# Keeping Fall Colors

Each fall, we witness an array of brilliant colors as the plant world readies itself for winter. You can preserve those brilliant colors of leaves and wildflowers by using easily obtained materials.

Keeping the fall colors of leaves can be difficult as they begin to dry out. The methods below will usually last several months before the colors begin to fade or darken.



## Pressing

Single leaves can be pressed between the pages of a large book, such as an old phone book. Sandwich the leaves between scrap paper or newspaper to prevent staining the pages.

Small branches of leaves can be pressed, provided the leaves have not become too dry or wilted. Working on a hard, flat surface, place the branch on five layers of newspaper and cover with five more layers of paper and one layer of stiff cardboard. If you have several branches, even fall wildflowers, you can build a multi-decker “sandwich”. Top it off with a piece of wood and a heavy weight. Store the stack in a dark, dry area for one to five weeks depending on the amount you are drying and their condition.

Once dried, the leaves can be glued or taped to paper and sprayed with a clear finish, available at a craft or hardware store. Leaves can also be placed between two sheets of clear contact paper for using as a bookmark or a sun catcher to hang in your window.

## Preserving with Glycerin

This preservation method will keep leaves supple and flexible. Glycerin can be found at most drug stores, tack & feed stores, art & craft stores, or businesses that sell catering/cake decorating supplies.

1. In a shallow pan, mix a solution of 1 part glycerin to 2 parts water.
2. Place your leaves into the solution.
3. Weigh the leaves down with another pan or dish, so that they are totally submerged.
4. Place a slightly smaller dish on top of the leaves to keep them well submerged. It also means you can use less solution.
5. Start checking in 2-3 days. The leaves should be soft and pliable. If they still feel like dry leaves, leave them in the solution for another 2-3 days.
6. When they are supple, remove them from the solution and blot them dry.