

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of the Nature's Calendar newsletter!

Thank you for all the reports you've been making this year so far, they really are invaluable.

I'm sure you've noticed the leaves turning already. If you haven't done so yet, make sure to choose a tree to observe this autumn and record these important dates:

Full autumn tinting: the date when all the leaves on the tree have changed colour

Leaves falling: the date you notice that some of the leaves have fallen and there are some bare twigs or branches on the tree

Bare tree: the date when the branches are completely bare

Similarly to last autumn, the very dry and warm weather this summer has resulted in an early or 'false' autumn in some parts of the UK. This is when trees begin to drop their leaves much earlier than would be expected in an effort to preserve water. Our first autumn tinting record this year was observed on a Sycamore in Nottinghamshire on the 26th July!

A warm welcome to new volunteers.

Within these newsletters we share project updates or news, insights into your records, reminders of what to look out for and highlights from our blog.

We are here to support you in your role, if you have any questions at any point, you can ask us via our project inbox: naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Best wishes,
The Nature's Calendar team.



Photo credit: Ben Lee WTML

Your records

Looking back at Autumn 2025

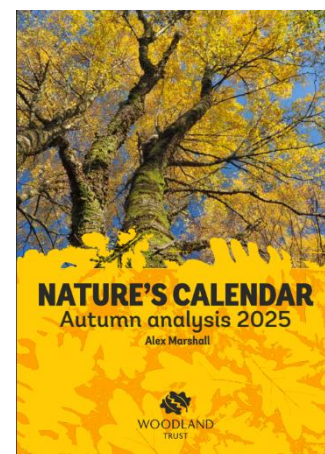
Can you remember what the weather was like this time last year and how plants and animals were responding? How will this autumn compare?

There are 85 different seasonal events that can be recorded for the Nature's Calendar project in autumn and in 2025 our volunteers submitted over 7000 records.

Following a warm and dry spring, 2025 was the sunniest on record and resulted in a record-breaking fruit yield year for many tree and shrub species.

Here's a few highlights from the autumn analysis report:

- All tree species except for rowan had average first leaf fall dates that were earlier than the benchmark year.



- Fruit production in 2025 was above 3.5 (on a scale of 0-5) for all species except for hazel, which was 3.4. Several species had their highest fruit score on record, including blackthorn, dog rose, hawthorn, horse chestnut, ivy, pedunculate oak and sessile oak.
- Ivy first flowering was seven days earlier than the benchmark year. The average first flowering date of 10 September was the earliest average flowering date since Nature's Calendar began, perhaps because of the warm start to the autumn season.

Blog – autumn throwback



Credit: Ben Lee WTML

[Is Climate Change Altering Autumn? Free webinar](#)

On the 24th August 2023, we held our 2nd Nature's Calendar webinar.

The webinar explored:

- background information about the project
- what to record in autumn & autumn recording tips
- a summary of last autumn's findings
- is climate change altering autumn?
- examples of how the data is being used

[UK Trees: causes of yellowing leaves and early autumn tinting](#)

Have you spotted yellowing tree leaves during the summer? Here are a few examples of what could be causing it.

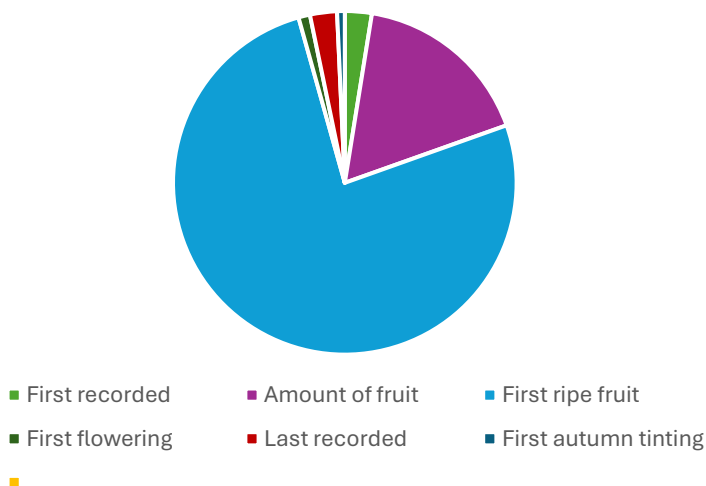


Credit: Ben Lee WTML

Your data

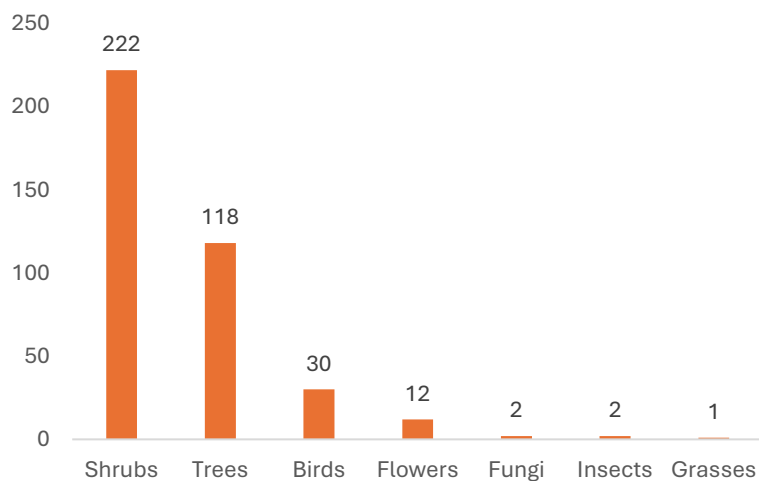
Over the last 3 months we have received 995 observations. Almost half of those records, 437, were first ripe fruit records, and almost half of those ripe fruit records were for bramble fruit! Bramble is always the most recorded species of the autumn season. Take a look at the graphs below for some further insights:

Events recorded in July



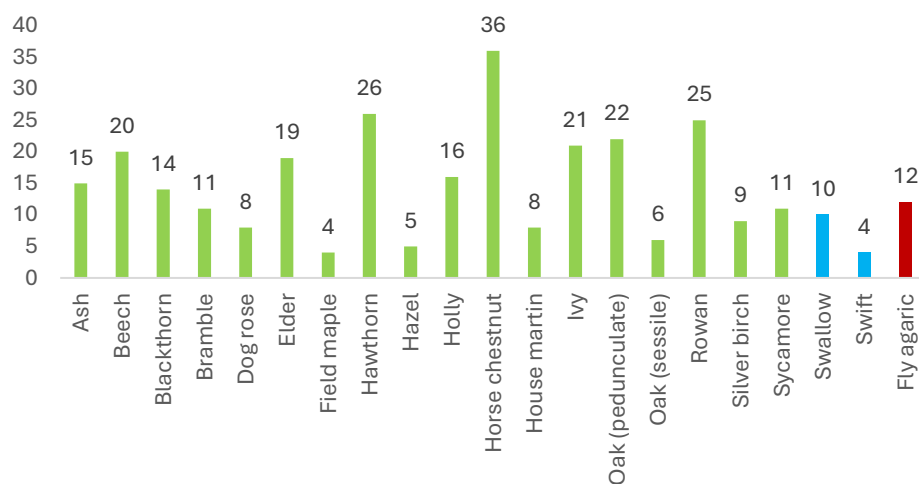
July saw 306 records in total. 210 were first ripe fruit records, 167 of those were bramble. The other first ripe fruit records were for beech, blackthorn, elder, hawthorn and rowan.

Records made in August



August saw the most records of the past 3 months, with 387 records. The top 3 species recorded were hawthorn, elder and bramble.

Species recorded in September



In september we had 302 records, 80 % of those records related to trees and shrubs – shown by the differentiation of coloured bars in the graph above. September saw a flurry of ‘first autumn tinting records’ right across the breadth of the UK.