

COMMUNITY

A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community.

Call the Journal at 285-7411

Fall colors of the Autumn Blaze Maple trees

In the fall, most of us look forward to seeing the beautiful fall colors of the many trees we have in northern Minnesota. It may also be a time of the year when one thinks about getting more of that red leaf color in our own yard.

One of the more popular trees that have been sold in the United States in the past few years, and probably primarily for its fall color, is the ‘Autumn Blaze’ Maple tree. This is a tree that has terrific color and is quick growing, but a caller on our Master Gardener Hot Line this past summer alerted me to a couple of concerns about this particular variety of maple cultivar.



Onen MARKESON  
MASTER GARDENER

The caller had planted this tree over 10 years ago, but the tree had started to sucker new trees up from its roots and the tree had started cracking around one of the limbs. These are two of the problems of this fast growing maple tree that I have seen reported

on various locations on the internet.

I think the review about this tree that I liked the most was by Karl Foord from the University of Minnesota Extension Services. In an online version of the University of Minnesota Yard and Garden News, he wrote that he has an ‘Autumn Blaze’ Maple tree (Acer x freemanii or ‘Jeffersred’) in his yard. He indicated that many in the tree trade consider these trees to be disasters due to their very fast growth and the frequency of becoming top heavy, with a tendency to be damaged or blown over by heavy winds or the weight of freezing rains.

In order to avoid the

top heavy problems, he recommends trimming them in accordance with a USDA Forest Service publication “How to Prune Trees.” The goal is to typically thin the tree in general, and the higher parts in particular or to trim off all of the lower limbs and up to a third of the higher limbs. This could probably best be done by an arborist, if one is available in your area, or would require an adventurous soul to climb the tree and trim it (with appropriate safety precautions).

The University of Minnesota Extension indicates that the Autumn Blaze Maple produces better and brighter red hues when they have a lot

of sunlight; this seems to indicate that if you do plant this tree looking for good fall colors, you should find an area in your yard that has plenty of sun. Different areas of a tree typically get different amounts of light, so different areas of the same tree can have leaves varying from red to orange to yellow. Different temperatures will also affect the colors so different years will likely produce slightly different colors.

The Autumn Blaze maple is a cultivar, not a natural variety of maple tree. It is a cross between the northern red maple and the silver maple. I am sure there are rewarding and good reasons to use

this beautiful tree (if well-trimmed), but if I were to consider planting a maple tree in my yard, I would first consider the native red maple or sugar maple. I hope you have enjoyed the fall colors.

Refer to the University Of Minnesota Extension Service website <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/> for more information on horticultural topics. In addition, local Master Gardeners will be available to answer your questions on home horticulture until the end of October. Call 444-7916, leaving your name, number, and the nature of your problem.

Prepare for Medicare Open Enrollment

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REPORT

The Minnesota Department of Commerce urges seniors to use Medicare Open Enrollment as an opportunity to evaluate their coverage options. The Department reminds seniors that insurance policies can change, making it important to review any notices regarding changes from their insurance companies. Seniors should use open enrollment as an opportunity to reexamine their coverage and find a policy that fits their budget and health needs.

“Open Enrollment is the only time of year when everyone on Medicare can make changes to their coverage for the upcoming year,” said Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. “I recommend that seniors carefully review their coverage options. It’s possible to save a lot of money by simply switching to a lower cost Medicare Supplement plan.”

Open Enrollment began Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. New coverage will begin Jan. 1, 2015. To join in a new plan, seniors can either enroll through Medicare or by calling the new plan. Seniors do not need to do anything if they elect not to make any changes for the next coverage year.

To help Minnesota seniors

make informed decisions regarding their Medicare options, the Commerce Department has the following tips and reminders for Medicare Open Enrollment:

MNSure, Minnesota’s Health Insurance Marketplace

MNSure is for people who do not have health insurance already through a job or government program, like Medicare. MNSure does not change any of the benefits or coverage for seniors who are on Medicare. The enrollment periods for MNSure and Medicare do overlap, so consumers should make certain that the health coverage options are Medicare plans and not plans available through MNSure.

Be on the Lookout for Fraud and Scams

Seniors need to know that it is illegal to sell seniors a plan through MNSure if the agent or broker knows that their client currently has a Medicare plan. Since the enrollment periods overlap, this may invite more fraudulent activity by suggesting unsuitable products to consumers and seniors need to be aware of their rights.

Seniors need to protect themselves from fraud. Education and getting good help, are the best defenses against becoming a victim — remember that your insurance agent or broker cannot imply that they are endorsed by

Medicare, solicit door-to-door, contact you by phone or email (unless the consumer initiated the call), or attempt to sell non-health related products such as life insurance or annuities during educational open houses.

Selecting a Medicare Part D Plan

Medicare Part D is supplemental coverage offered by private insurance companies that helps pay for prescription costs. Shop around to see which plan is likely to save the most money. Most Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage.

Shop around for your Medigap Policy

Medicare Supplement Insurance policies obtained through private insurance companies (also called Medigap) offer coverage and services that are not provided by Original Medicare and premiums can vary widely from company to company — be sure to compare plans and policies.

Questions about Medicare Open Enrollment?

■ Visit the Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)

■ Call the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 to select or enroll in a plan

For information on special enrollment periods, go to the Medicare website for Special Enrollment Periods.

SENIOR MENU

Hot meals for people 60 or older are served at noon Monday through Friday at Koochiching County Senior Center, 307 Fourth St.

Meals are for anyone, regardless of income. A \$4 donation is suggested. Meals are subject to change. Participants under age 60 are welcome at \$7.50 each.

For reservations call 283-3460 the day before the meal. Cancellations may be made the day of the meal.

MONDAY

Pulled pork  
Hamburger buns  
Fresh potato wedges  
Baked beans  
Fruit

TUESDAY

Turkey  
Gravy  
Mashed potatoes  
Sweet potatoes  
Dressing  
Fresh fruits

WEDNESDAY

Spinach and ham egg bake or alternative

Seasonal fresh fruit  
Apple juice  
Cinnamon rolls

THURSDAY

Salisbury steak  
Mashed potatoes  
Gravy  
Carrots  
Fruit

FRIDAY

Cabbage rolls  
Mashed potatoes  
Wax beans  
Decorated Halloween cupcakes

LOOKINGBACK

25 YEARS AGO

To all my patients and friends: I wish to inform you that after practicing dentistry for 45 years in International Falls, I have decided to retire. — Dr. A.T. Banen, D.D.S.

Abed and Hope Lawabni announce the birth of their son, Christopher Khaleel, 8 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces, 201 1/2 inches long, born today at Falls Memorial Hospital.

40 YEARS AGO

James Sather, son of Mrs. May Weber and the late Oswald Sather, has enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve under the 270-day delay program. Sather is a senior at Falls High School.

Mrs. Alfred Braford and Mrs. Harold Reich recently attended Parents’ Day at St. Olaf College and visited with Miss Lori Ann Braford, daughter and granddaughter respectively.

50 YEARS AGO

Park Grocery — Eva and Bill Keenan — sirloin steak, 95 cents a pound; ground beef, 39 cents a pound; tomatoes, two-pound basket for 35 cents; Folger’s coffee, three-pound canister, \$2.19; mushrooms, five cans for \$1.

Piggly Wiggly — Dem-

ing’s Pink Alaska salmon, one-pound can for 49 cents; fresh pork hocks, 29 cents a pound; Mulkins Canadian jam, four-pound can for \$1.29; canned pumpkin, 10 cents a can.

Walter Beebe Wednesday was elected president of the Falls Kiwanis Club. He succeeds Harley Reinarz.

The Tuesday Musicale met Tuesday at the lake home of Mrs. Richard Fox, an honorary member of the club. Mrs. Edna Egan was elected to membership.

60 YEARS AGO

Purchase of the old Boston Cafe building, which adjoins their jewelry store, was announced today by Lloyd and Reed Christensen. The building, a 24x65-foot structure, was acquired from Gus Spath, long-time border city restaurant operator. It has been occupied by The Huddle, a cafe operated by Lowell Johnson.

Mrs. Warren Selover, 308 Ninth St., was honored at a surprise farewell party at her home.

A son was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood, Faye Apartments; weight, 7 pounds; name chosen, Robert James.

Two new Brownies, Nancy Wherley and Amelia Grandaw, were welcomed into Troop 129.

State Fair ribbons were presented to several members of the Ericsburg 4-H Club at a regular meeting at Rogers Corner Monday evening. Receiving the awards were Penny Zoupas, John Harris and Gary Keyes.

70 YEARS AGO

Cyril Walker, Y 3/c and Mrs. Walker announce the birth of a daughter, Pamela Susan, at Littlefork Hospital today.

The young women enrolled in the Forest Queen contest are Helen Christie, Dolores Dilworth, Mary Markowski, Pat Sullivan, Audrey LaDu, Helen Kyryluk and Joann Holler.

Charles Haley, whose experience with all phases of northern Minnesota agriculture goes back to his youth spent on a farm near Chisholm and who has until recently served as 4-H club agent in Goodhue County, will take over duties as Koochiching County agricultural agent on Nov. 1.

Mardella McBride, Insulite fifth floor, left company employ Tuesday to resume her household duties.

Rainy Lake Medical Center welcomes

Dr. Stephen Hadley, MD

Rheumatologist,  
Rainy Lake Clinic

Dr. Stephen Hadley, MD is an experienced Rheumatologist, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Rainy Lake Clinic.

**Dr. Hadley will medically manage patients with rheumatic diseases such as:**

- Lupus
- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Dr. Hadley will be seeing patients one Saturday per month at the Rainy Lake Clinic. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Hadley, patients must receive a referral from their primary care provider. The provider can fax the referral to the Rainy Lake Clinic at 283-3232.

For more information, please call the Rainy Lake Clinic at 283-5503.

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