

YELLOWING AUTUMN BLAZE MAPLE TREES

Our neighborhood boasts many beautiful Autumn Blaze maple trees that are declining because of iron chlorosis. This isn't due to anything you've done wrong, it's because the tree isn't compatible with our alkaline soils, making it prone to iron chlorosis. If you have a maple that is turning yellow in June and July, it is probably an Autumn Blaze, and you will need to take action if you don't want to lose it. Once the tree has been yellow in the summer for a couple of years, it is well on its way to dying.

A Canterbury Master Gardener told us that you have several treatment options, two of which she observed on her own cul-de-sac. One yellowing tree was treated with chelated iron, and it died after a few years. The tree that survived, and is now a healthy green, was treated by an iron injection by a professional tree service. A CSU fact sheet is attached with more specific treatment information.

Trees are an invaluable addition to our landscapes, and a 20-year-old maple is literally irreplaceable. We lost many ash trees in the neighborhood a few years back from a hard freeze, which was a real loss to the community; so, it would be a shame to exacerbate that loss with numerous dead maple trees. It is much more affordable to treat the tree you have than to replace it with a much-smaller expensive new tree. We hope you will seriously consider treating your Autumn Blaze maples if they are yellowing prematurely.

<https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/223.pdf>