



**WEST LODGE PARK**  
YOUR COUNTRY RETREAT

## Garden Notes – Autumn/Winter 2009/10

### Beautiful Liquidambers

This is the season when autumn colouring shows our arboretum at its best. Without fail the *Liquidambers* are the prima donnas of the collection. Their great merit is that the colour gradually spreads through the canopy, so providing a variety of shades



from yellow through gold, cerise and russet, to red at any one time. They can be seen just below the group of large *poplars* in the lower ride. In the maple glade there is always at least one tree which captures our attention. It may be the tall *Acer Templars Upright*, or the *Cappadocum Maple*, or possible the large *Acer desycorpum*. The most welcome characteristic of a maple collection is that there is something worthy of note irrespective

of the season. When the colours blow away in the shortening days we can appreciate the shining bark of *Acer griseum* and the young bark of the aptly named *Snakebarks*.

### The West Lodge Park Oaks

At West Lodge we are fortunate that in the 60's we planted several Oaks of American origin. The largest of these are the three **Red Oaks**. In this country they seldom take on a convincing red tone and usually turn a rich brown which they hold for some three weeks or more. We find this not only pleasant in its own right, but providing excellent background colour for the other two oaks. *Quercus coccinea*, Scarlet Oak, and its improved form, *Quercus coccinea splendens*. In some years (and naturally we hope that this will be one of them) the colour can be spectacular. Another new world oak which you can see near the lake is *Quercus palustris*, the Pin Oak. This tree prefers damp conditions and is as colourful as the Scarlet Oak.



### Other Autumn Gems

Our *Pterocarya* or Wingnut, which is situated near the Liquidambers, turns a pleasing yellow in autumn. As the colour turns the fruiting racemes are shown to their best effect and at the right time are strikingly photogenic.

Another gem is the **Raywood Ash**. This Australian form can produce an almost unique claret hue in a good season but even in an 'off' year it has the finest colour of any Ash. This tree is just below the Maple Glade.



The berried trees which featured in our summer notes are still in evidence, birds permitting. In October *Sorbus Embley* and *Sorbus hupehensis* are at their best while the crab, *Malus Golden Hornet*, is making a good show. Among the shrubs the reliable, if relatively commonplace *Sumach (Rhus)* and *Smoke Bush (Cotinus)* adopt strong red and bronze colouring. These can be seen from the steps to the left of the main lawn.

Although not noted as a flowering period, autumn gives us the small white scented blooms on the *Viburnum fragrans* and yellow “spiders” on Witch Hazels or *Hamamelis*, both shrubs being located near the Edward Beale Memorial at the end of the ride.



### **A New Feature**

This autumn sees the planting of a second avenue of West Lodge Park. The existing one is that which flanks our drive and comprises well established European Lime (*Tilia europaea*). Now we are planting a new 280m avenue of Redwood or *Wellingtonia (Sequoiandendron giganteum)* in the field on the upper side of the drive. This will eventually focus on a feature near the field boundary and so become a striking element of the estate before mid-century. Planting an avenue is an act of confidence redolent of plantmen in the XVIII and XIX centuries. The Redwood is a noble tree of considerable longevity as well as being one of the safest.

### **Commemorative Trees**

Have you ever thought of planting a tree at West Lodge Park to commemorate a special person or occasion for yourself or as a gift for others?

The opportunity to plant a tree is only open to guests holding a bona fide function at West Lodge Park or Beales Hotel Hatfield and you would be free to visit the tree and watch it grow over the years in perpetuity.

### **Garden Open Day**

Visit The Beale Arboretum to view the trees and shrubs and support the National Garden Scheme to help us raise money for various charities, including MacMillan Nurses.

Sunday 25th October

1pm – 4pm

*Hotel guests are welcome to visit the grounds at any time  
and the Arboretum is open to the public every afternoon 2-5pm.  
Please pick up a leaflet from Reception*