



A Blaze of Color Sweden

Fall in northern Sweden is a brief but spectacular affair. Alpine forests in this remote part of Lapland turn blazing shades of yellow and orange. Landsat 8 captured this image in October 2016.

Birch forests growing along stream valleys are probably the source of most of the color here, though other deciduous shrubs and understory plants surely contribute as well. Some of the hills have a dusting of snow. The southern Sun's low angle above the horizon draws long, dark shadows across the landscape.

In autumn, the leaves on deciduous trees change colors as they lose chlorophyll, the pigment that helps plants synthesize food. When days shorten and temperatures drop, levels of chlorophyll (which appears green) do as well. Other leaf pigments—carotenoids and anthocyanins—then show off their colors.