

### Now why are the leaves turning yellow? Chlorosis

When leaves yellow, it is time to take note. Your tree is trying to tell you something: too much water, too little water, too few nutrients. Hundreds of factors can cause a tree's foliage to yellow. In the case of chlorosis -- a condition in which the leaf tissue yellows due to a lack of chlorophyll -- the culprit may be a nutrient deficiency, compacted or damaged roots, high alkalinity, or poor drainage.

Regardless of the cause, the effects are the same: in mild cases the tree's foliage begins to pale between the leaf veins (fig. 1); in more severe cases the entire leaf takes on a yellow hue. A chlorotic tree is more susceptible to scorching and a host of diseases. In severe cases -- when the foliage becomes completely yellowed -- leaves may die, as well as the affected branch, and the death of the entire tree may follow.

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1. An oak leaf exhibiting a mild case of chlorosis