

Cheat Sheet for Painting Autumn Leaves

By Christine Elder

Fall leaves are a great subject to practice using watercolor paints, since leaves display so many different colors which softly blend together, making the painting process a breeze.

>> Start by watching my video painting tutorial here:

<https://christineelder.com/painting-autumn-leaves/>

Let's review the painting tips from the video

- Assemble your art supplies including watercolors, brush, pencil and paper.
- Collect a variety of colorful leaves or use the photo on the next page.
- Sketch a leaf or save time by simply tracing a leaf onto your paper.
- Take some time to observe your leaf before you start painting. Notice and name the colors you see and how they blend together.
- Paint loosely in a wet-in-wet technique starting by wetting the leaf you've outlined on your paper with clear water.
- While your paper is still wet, paint the lightest color in your leaf, then quickly add darker ones, such as in this order: yellow, green, orange, sienna, blue.
- Be bolder with your colors than you think you should, since watercolors always dry paler than they look when wet.
- Don't get too fussy or perfectionist by overworking the paints on your paper, just quickly drop colors in and move on, or else you risk over-mixing the colors and making mud!
- Let painting dry then feel free to add emphasis with additional layers of watercolor, pencil, pen, or opaque white gelly roller pens.
- Most importantly, have fun! I always encourage my students to enjoy the *process over the product* and *progress over perfection!*

Autumn Leaves Practice Page

