

Ginkgo trees nearly went extinct. Here's how we saved these 'living fossils.'

These ancient trees persisted for nearly 200 million years until they all but vanished. Now they line city streets.



Tourists visit a 1000-year-old ginkgo tree in China's Sichuan province. During the fall, ginkgo leaves turn a bright yellow before dropping off the tree.

On the streets of Manhattan and Washington, D.C., in neighborhoods in Seoul and parks in Paris, ginkgo trees are gradually losing their bright yellow leaves in reaction to the first bout of frigid winter air.

This leaf drop, gradual at first, and then sudden, carpets streets with golden, fan-shaped leaves every year. But around the world, scientists are documenting evidence of the event happening later and later, a possible indication of climate change.



