Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree  
This is the perfect time to enjoy the brilliant autumn gold Ginkgo trees lining the streets of campus. It’s one of the oldest trees, growing on earth for 150 million years and was native in North America at one time. Only male trees should be planted as the fruit is messy and quite malodorous. The problem in determining the sex of Ginkgo is that they do not fruit until they are quite old - typically 20 - 50 years. A lovely female specimen can be found in the Botany Pond Garden...a canopy is set-up every autumn to protect many passersby from trudging through the stinky fruit.

Callicarpa dichotoma - Purple Beautyberry  
Purple Beautyberry is one of those shrubs that really shines in autumn. The species grows 3’-4’ in height with a slightly greater spread. Its long slender branches arch and touch the ground at their tips. Medium green leaves are borne in one plane along the stem acting as a perfect foil for the violet-purple fruit. Check out Callicarpa at the southeast corner of Ellis Ave and 56th Street (Palevsky) and in the South Winter Garden - located between Midway Plaisance South & 60th St. and Ellis Ave & Woodlawn Ave.

Parthenocissus tricuspidata - Boston Ivy  
The ivied walls of University of Chicago’s gothic buildings create some of the most iconic images of campus. Brightly colored strands of Boston ivy meander or envelop the facades of Bartlett, Kent, and Oriental Institute, just to name a few. This creeper is an excellent, tough, low maintenance vine for walls. The foliage is lustrous green in spring and summer while turning brilliant shades of orange, red, and scarlet in the autumn. This deciduous vine has tendrils with adhesive like tips that have the ability to cement itself to the wall and therefore needs no support.

Brassica ‘Nero di Toscana’ - Kale ‘Nero di Toscana’  
Kale ‘Nero di Toscana’ is also referred to as palm or dinosaur kale. The leaves of this variety are smoky green-blue, long and blistered, with crinkled edges turning inward. It’s extremely cold hardy - the lower the temperature the darker, almost black the leaves will turn. This variety is from Italy where it was developed in Tuscany, probably during the 18th century. Find these fun accent plants in the seasonal displays throughout campus.