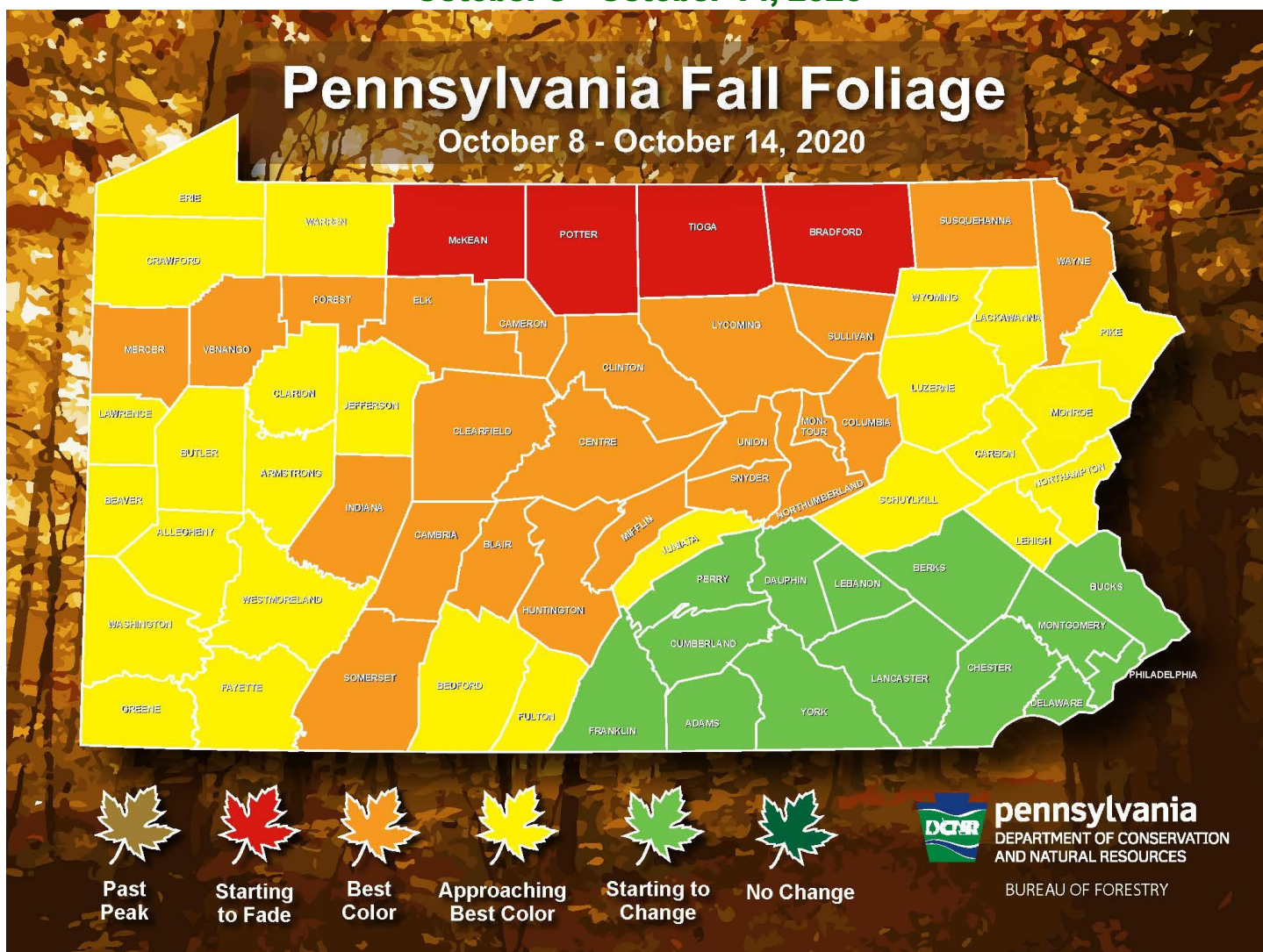


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 8 – October 14, 2020



To predict peak season from the colors, use these guidelines:

- Dark Green/No Change= peak is *three weeks to a month* away
- Light Green/Starting to Change= peak is *approximately two to three weeks* away
- Yellow/Approaching Best Color= peak is *approximately one week* away
- Orange/Best Color= foliage is *peaking this week*
- Red/Starting to Fade= still some nice color but won't last more than *a few more days*
- Brown/Past Peak= all or nearly all color *is gone*

Statewide Fall Foliage Overview

Gorgeous color continues to abound throughout Penn's Woods! While some northern counties have begun to fade, central forests are now stealing the show. Awesome color can be found from northwestern Pennsylvania through the Alleghenies and central Appalachians, to the Pocono region. Forecasted seasonable temperatures should facilitate a gradual transition of color throughout southern areas of the commonwealth, affording fantastic viewing opportunities into late October.

Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) stated that cool nights have brought on a splendid array of colors on the hillsides of northwestern Pennsylvania. Although peak is still more than a week away, every shade of yellow, red, orange, and brown is represented in the forested landscape. It's a great time to get outdoors and take advantage of the autumn experience and the many opportunities to walk forested trails carpeted in newly fallen leaves! To view and enjoy the fall foliage by vehicle, consider taking routes 666, 62, 59, or 321. Other scenic options are Route 8 from Oil City through Titusville and into Erie County, and routes 27 and 77 in Crawford County.

Northcentral Region

The district manager reported fading color in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties). Most maple, basswood, and ash leaves have fallen. Black cherry trees and beeches are still showing yellow and orange, so there is still some nice color. Oaks are continuing to change with the best color in areas where they are mixed with maple and other hardwoods. Routes 6, 44, 49, and 144 are recommended drives to see the fall colors. Oaks are projected to give a secondary peak fall foliage display toward the third week of October.



Bright color remains at the Susquehannock State Forest district office. (photo by C. Nicholas)

Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest report beautiful foliage throughout the district. Maples, birches, sassafras, and yellow poplar are at peak, vivid color. A recommended driving route includes Four Mile Road, McGeorge Road, Caledonia Pike, Medix Grade Road, and Little Medix Road.



Beautiful color abounds in Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)



Vivid colors of Lost Run, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by B. Salvato)

Foresters in Elk and Cameron counties (Elk State Forest) stated that recent wind and rain removed many leaves from red maples. Birches and sugar maples are still showing nice color throughout the district, contrasting with oaks that are still green. Excellent color can be found near the Elk State Forest district office in Emporium.



Beautiful fall color at Salt Run Vista near Emporium. (photo by T. Herzing)



Band Rock Vista, McIntyre Wild Area. (DCNR file photo)

Color in Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan, Bradford counties) is at or approaching peak. Beech, oaks, and poplars are still mostly green, but many other species are displaying full color. Loyalsock Canyon Vista, in Worlds End State Park, overlooks beautiful stands of colorful red and sugar maples. A challenging hike to Band Rock Vista in the McIntyre Wild Area rewards the adventurer with panoramic views of the scenic Lycoming Creek valley.

Leaf color is still at its peak in most of Tiadaghton State Forest. While the northern hardwood species are beginning to fade, there is still great color. Yellow, red, and orange of maples and birches stand out amongst the oak canopy that is starting to change. This week should be the best time to visit the area to catch the overlapping period of northern hardwood and oak color. Take a drive on Route 44 or 414 for some great color, or make it a loop and use Slate Run and Manor Fork roads for some fantastic views of beech, birch, and sassafras in front of a contrasting backdrop of oaks and white pine. Lebo, Sinking Springs, or Bull Run Road vistas are recommended sightseeing destinations, as well.

Forestry staff in Tioga State Forest District (Tioga and Bradford counties) related fading conditions in the region, but still some remaining pockets of nice color. Oaks are just starting to transition, remaining mainly green but showing some red, russet, and orange colors. The district's oak forests should peak in about a week. The PA Grand Canyon is offering great viewing currently, so a drive along Colton, Painter-Leetonia, and West Rim roads will provide picturesque views.

Foresters in Sproul State Forest (Clinton, Centre counties) report that recent rain has helped leaf retention and the process of color change is well underway. Yellow is the predominant shade throughout the district, emanating from birches, black cherry, and maple. Upland oak sites are still green and providing nice contrast. Excellent color from northern hardwoods can be found in and adjacent to the Russell P. Letterman Wild Area. Route 144 is a recommended scenic drive in the region.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The Clarion County service forester observed beautiful color on red and sugar maples, sassafras, black gum, elms, sumac, black walnut, dogwoods, basswood, birch, and beech. Scattered frosts and dry conditions have propelled a rapid change in color. Oaks are still green, but hickories are starting to turn. Brady's Bend Overlook (Clarion County), Seneca Point Overlook (Clarion County, Cook Forest State Park), and Beartown Rocks (Jefferson County, Clear Creek State Forest) offer scenic views of a wide palette of fall colors.



Nice maple color, Jefferson City. (photo by H. May)

Forbes State Forest staff reported that maples will show peak color this weekend in the Laurel Highlands. Red and sugar maples are perennial fall color favorites, but this year they are especially bright and colorful. The northern hardwood forest containing black cherry, maples, birches, and American beech will show great color this week. There has been a noticeable transition of color in species that turn later in fall, like oaks, beech, and poplar. A few white and red oaks are showing splashes of yellow, but most remain green. Yellow poplars and beeches are beginning to show their bright yellow. Sassafras is displaying bright shades of red, orange, and yellow. Ferns, common in many forests throughout Pennsylvania, are beginning their dormancy and are showing beautiful browns and yellows.

Visit Linn Run State Park and enjoy the bright colors along Linn Run Road. Laurel Hill State Park in Somerset county will continue to provide some of the best opportunities to enjoy fall color this week. Take a drive on any country road throughout the Laurel Highlands to enjoy the beautiful scenery. Route 381 from Ligonier to Farmington is a beautiful drive through the counties of Westmoreland and Fayette. Along the way, be sure to visit Ohiopyle State Park. Beautiful vistas, hikes, and wildlife are common throughout the park. The sugar maples that line Jones Mill Run Road in Forbes State Forest will be glowing this week. If you're planning to observe fall foliage this year, don't delay; this will be one of the best weeks for fall color on the Laurel Ridge and southern Somerset County. Lace up your hiking boots, grab a camera, and bring your family. This will be a great week to take a postcard-perfect photograph!

The Cambria County service forester (Gallitzin State Forest) observed maples displaying beautiful colors. Foliage is peaking on high elevations like the Allegheny Front. A trip to the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area to hike the Clark Run Trail or Rager Mountain Trail is recommended for prime fall foliage viewing, currently.

Central and Southcentral Regions



Locust Ridge Vista, Snyder County. (photo by J. Osborne)

The Mifflin/Snyder/Union County service forester (Bald Eagle State Forest) reported that most trees and shrubs with showy fall foliage are in full splendor, although some oak ridges and valleys are still mostly green. A scenic drive along Shade Mountain Road in Snyder County is recommended to observe some beautiful fall colors. This road also provides easy access to over a dozen hiking-only trails in the area.



Bright color can be seen at the irrigation lake at Penn Nursery (Mira Lloyd Dock Center) near Spring Mills. (photo by C. Neuffer)

Foresters observed fall color in “full swing” in the Seven Mountains area. Maples, birches, and aspens are at peak, while ash, cherry, and white oak are beginning to change. Expect to see abundant autumn beauty the next few weeks when the red, chestnut, and black oaks shift from green to vibrant fall colors.

The Schuylkill and Carbon County (Weiser State Forest) service forester observed improving color throughout the district with the northern portion (Northumberland, Columbia and Montour) more advanced. Black birch is displaying its brilliant golden yellow along with assorted bright colors from black gum, red maple, and sassafras. Some pockets of oaks are giving us a glimpse of more color in the coming weeks. Roaring Creek Tract (Weiser State Forest) and Hickory Run State Park are suggested DCNR lands for good fall foliage opportunities this week.

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reports some bright colors beginning to show. Brilliant maples can be seen from vistas and many roads in the forest district. Black Log Valley has a higher proportion of sugar maple and is currently a standout for fall foliage viewing in the district.

In Weiser State Forest District, observers in Lebanon and Dauphin counties have noted minor progress of foliage this week, with more color at higher elevations. Cool to seasonable temperatures should keep foliage on track for peak conditions toward the end of October.



Gorgeous sugar maple near Newburg. (photo by J. Reed)

Rothrock State Forest will be at peak color toward the end of this forecasting week. Maples, dogwoods, walnuts, birches, and hickories are displaying vivid fall colors. The areas within and surrounding the Trough Creek Division, including Raystown Lake, will be beautiful throughout the week. A scenic car ride along Alan Seeger Drive in the north end of the district will reveal bright stands of birch, maple, and sassafras.

In Buchanan State Forest (Franklin, Fulton, Bedford counties), fall foliage is ramping up in maples, birches, and black gums. With cooler temperatures on the way, many more trees should be changing soon. For a nice drive in Bedford County, take Black Valley Road south from Everett through the Martin Hill area of Buchanan State Forest, and continue onto Route 326 back to the town Bedford. In Fulton County, Aughwick Road through Allens Valley is a recommended drive, offering picturesque views through Allens Valley and Cowans Gap State Park. A scenic drive in Franklin County includes Bear Valley Road at Ft. Loudon. The road winds through Bear Valley for 13 miles, includes sightseeing opportunities through game lands and Buchanan State Forest, and concludes at a great spot for a picnic at Bear Valley Picnic Area.

The Michaux State Forest (Adams, Franklin, Cumberland counties) service forester reports slow progress in the region since last week's report. Oak color is expected to start next weekend. Ridge road remains the best place to see cheerful orange and red colors of sassafras, black gum, and red maples.

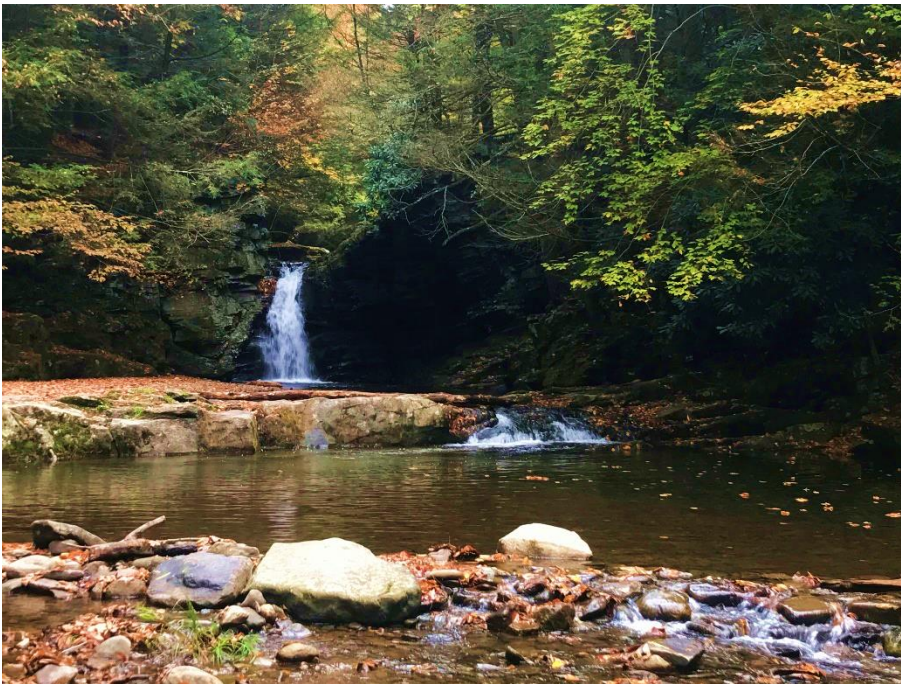
Northeastern Region

Foresters in Delaware State Forest (Pike and Monroe counties) reported progressing fall colors through most of the area. Oaks are mostly green but should be turning color within the coming week. Some white and scarlet oaks have begun changing the past few days, adding red tones to the landscape. Red maples and birches are nearing their peak, adding red and bright yellow to the forest. More sugar maples are continuing to change to yellow and orange. This coming week will push more trees to peak in northern hardwood stands and around swamps/wet areas. A great place to view fall foliage this week is Promised Land State Park.



Warm fall color around a marsh, Delaware State Forest. (photo by J. Maza)

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported that Susquehanna and northern Wayne counties will peak this week, but best color in Lackawanna, Wyoming, northern Luzerne, and southern Wayne counties is projected to be over a week away. Throughout the region, maples, oaks, beech, cherry, sassafras, and black gum are displaying full color. Understory plants like fern, winterberry, blueberry, and huckleberry are exhibiting wide arrays of copper and yellow, adding interest to lower levels of the forest landscape. Color change is expected to accelerate with colder nights in the forecast. Areas recommended for excellent fall foliage viewing include the Equinunk and Thornhurst tracts (Pinchot State Forest), Ricketts Glen State Park, and Game Lands 70, 35, 219, and 299.



Rattlesnake Falls, Montage Tract, Pinchot State Forest. (photo by T. Latz)

Southeastern Region

Foresters in William Penn State Forest district reported little progress in fall foliage throughout the district this week. The northern region of the district (Northampton, Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Lehigh counties) is still showing the best color. The Gibraltar Hill Tract, found northwest of Birdsboro, offers abundant hiking and sightseeing opportunities in the area.