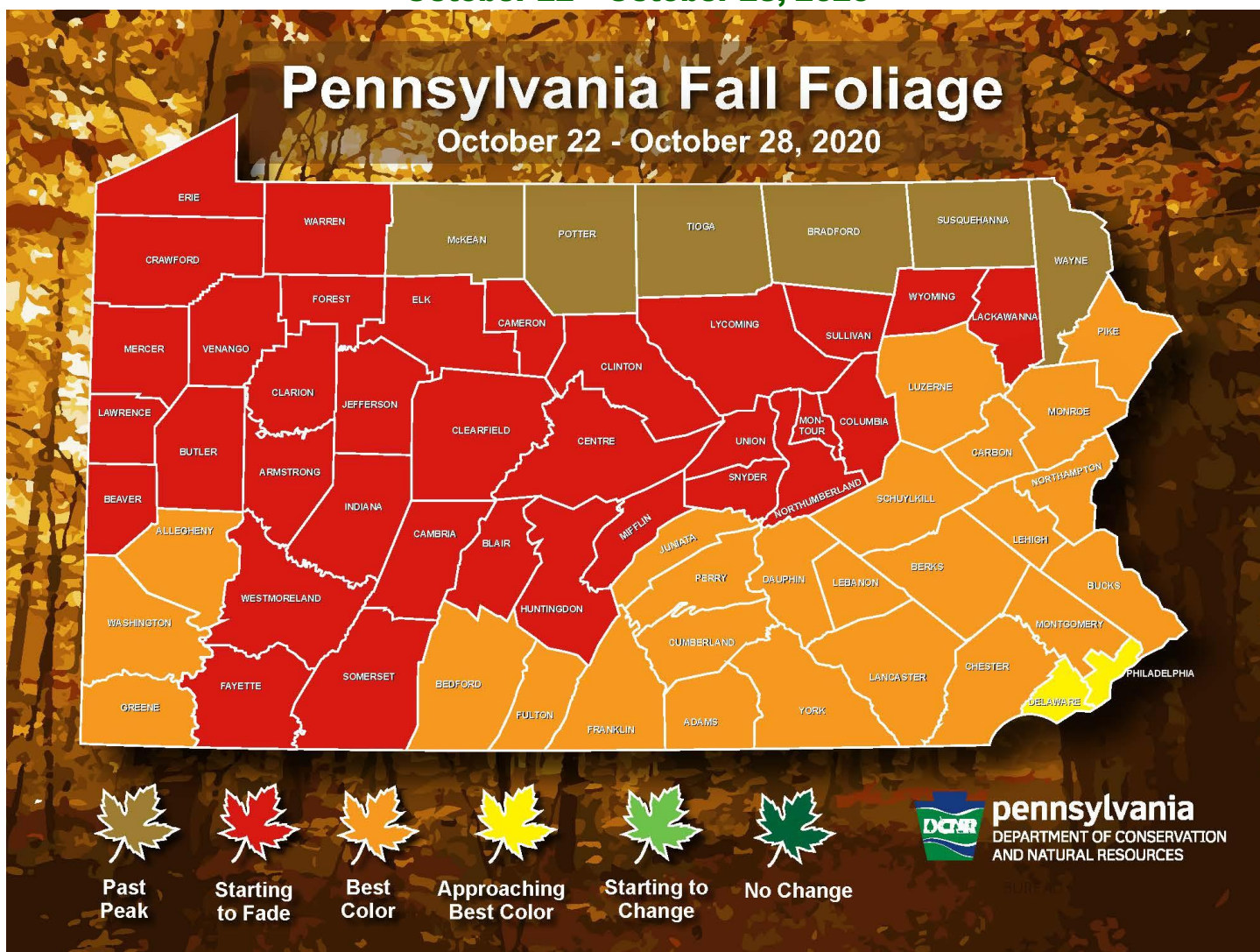


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 22 – October 28, 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

Although much of the northern half of the commonwealth is fading or past peak, vivid fall color has arrived in the south. Dazzling autumn scenery can be found from the central and southern Appalachians to the south-Pocono region. Fantastic fall hues are also on display from the Lehigh Valley to South Mountain, extending eastward into the lower Delaware Valley. With the fall foliage season progressing into its latter stages, the time is now to get out and enjoy some awe-inspiring, late season fall color in Penn's Woods!

Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) reported recent rains have caused leaves to drop but still much color to be viewed in northwest Pennsylvania. There continues to be a beautiful mix of colors both on the landscape level and on individual trees. Some darker, richer shades are beginning to stand out on nature's palette, including deep gold, chestnut brown, and cranberry.



Red oak color glistens after rain in Warren County. (photo by C. Stelter)

Northcentral Region

Foresters reported lasting color in Tiadaghton State Forest. Oaks, hickories, and beech are now in their prime as the last of the maples, birch, and sassafras are losing their leaves. Orange, red, and copper shades are widespread throughout the district. Routes 44, 414 and Francis Road are good options for a scenic drive. Oaks and beeches are especially colorful on Francis Road, where two vistas overlook large stands of oak in full color. A fall foliage driving tour on 10/24/2020 is available. For more information, please check here:

https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/event/fall_foliage_vista_driving_tour#.X4cH79BKjIU



Beautiful hickories at Hamilton Bottom. (photo by V. Curtis)

Color in most of Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan counties) is past peak, with oaks and beech now providing a last shot of bright color in the region. Nice fall color can still be found at the Little Bear and Gray's Run areas.

Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest reported maple and cherry are past peak, and wind last week blew down many leaves. Beeches are a golden yellow with a hint of orange, and black birch is bright yellow as well. Huckleberry and blueberry are at peak bright red. The progression of oaks continues with yellow and occasionally red colors observed. Recommended drives to see good color are the Quehanna Highway, routes 504 and 153, and US 322.



Chestnut Ridge Vista, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by Z. Miller)



Beautiful color at Ross Run Parking Area, Tiadaghton State Forest. (photo by V. Curtis)



Warm fall color at the historic Watrous CCC camp. (photo by T. Oliver)

The district manager reported fading overall color in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties), but beech and aspen leaves are hanging on with some nice yellows and oranges. Oaks have progressed since last week and are starting to peak with rusty reds and oranges across the hillsides. A drive on Route 6 from Galeton to Ansonia in Tioga County should show some nice oak color on south-facing slopes. Other recommended scenic drives include routes 872, 44, and 144.

Forestry staff in Tioga State Forest District (Tioga and Bradford counties) related that there are still plenty of beautiful colors and places to see in Tioga State Forest. Oaks are at peak with beautiful orange, red, and russet shades. The western part of Tioga State Forest has the best remaining color, where the oak stands are dominant. The Route 6 corridor remains a beautiful drive.



Oak forests are peaking near Wharton. (photo by R.S. Bowser)

Foresters in Sprout State Forest (Clinton, Centre counties) reported fading color in the region. Despite most maples dropping their leaves, the abundant oak forests of the district are displaying a colorful mix of red to orange hues.

The Elk County service forester observed that wind and rain removed many leaves from red maples, but red oaks are turning red to brown. Birches and sugar maples are still showing nice color.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The Clarion County service forester (Clear Creek State Forest) reported fading color. Rain, frost, and a few windy days have dropped many leaves. Oaks are showing some rich, vibrant color – burgundy, mustard-yellow, and muted orange mixed with various shades of green and brown.



Cheerful color remains at Mt. Davis. (photo by D. Stiffler)

Forbes State Forest staff reported fading color across the Laurel Highlands, but oaks are beginning to show colorful shades of yellow, brown, and maroon. Visitors to the Laurel Highlands should focus on oak forests to see the best color. American beech and yellow poplar are still vibrant, showing some of their best colors this week. Chestnut ridge will continue at peak early this week, but it won't last long.

The Braddock Division of Forbes State Forest in Fayette County offers forests of oak and yellow poplar showing their best fall color. The winding rural roads of Washington, Greene, and Allegheny counties claim the latest dates for peak fall color in the district, and are sure to please visitors with a wide variety of fall hues. Ryerson Station State Park in western Greene County is a great destination for an autumn picnic or hike.

Foresters in Gallitzin State Forest (Cambria, Somerset, Blair counties) observed fading color for most areas within the district. Nice fall colors can still be found near the Babcock Division along Route 56. Consider taking a hike on the County Line Trail to observe the later-changing red oak forest.

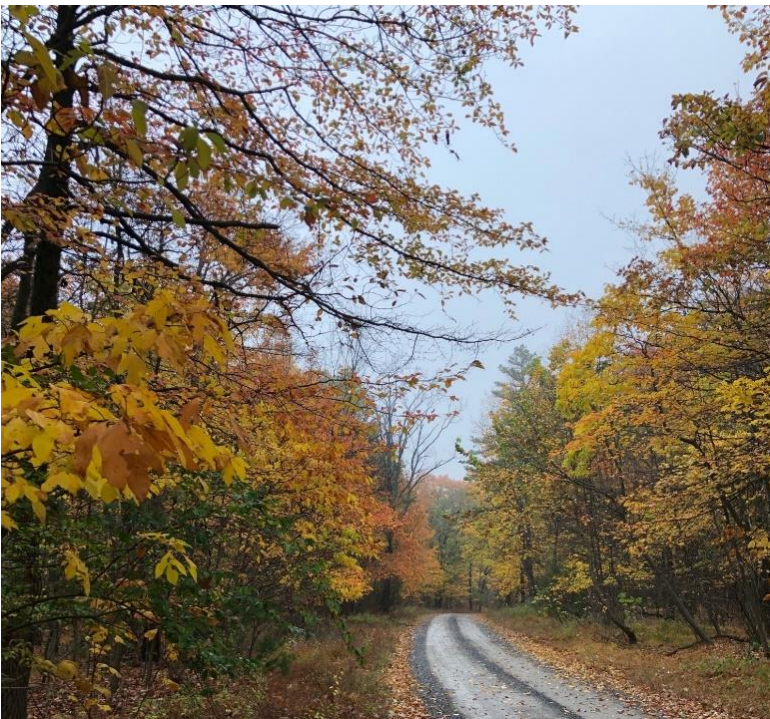
Central and Southcentral Regions

The Mifflin/Snyder/Union County service forester (Bald Eagle State Forest) reported many oaks are now showing their fall colors, while other species are dropping their leaves. This is likely the last weekend for nice, widespread color in the district.

Foresters from the Miry Lloyd Dock Center (Penn Nursery) in Spring Mills noted fading color in the Seven Mountains area. Nearly all maple, cherry, and birch leaves have fallen. Despite the loss of these colorful leaves, fall foliage enthusiasts can still enjoy nice color from the oak forests that dominate the ridgetops and slopes.



Ingelby Vista, Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by J. Osborne)



Pleasant color at Shade Mountain, Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by J. Portzline)

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reports still vivid color in the district. Now is the time to see beautiful fall color because the leaves are starting to fall from many trees. The ridges and valleys throughout the region are beautiful this time of year with the color contrasts and harvest of fall crops. It is a great time of year for a Sunday drive in Pennsylvania!



Gorgeous autumn color overlooking the D&L Trail. (photo by R. Reed)

In the northeastern portion of Weiser State Forest District (Schuylkill and Carbon counties), foliage is spectacular. Vibrant fall color can be found at Lehigh Gorge State Park and throughout the south-Pocono area. A hike or bike ride along the D&L Trail is recommended for some truly remarkable fall scenery. Observers in Lebanon and Dauphin counties reported peak foliage this week. Beautiful color has been reported at the Haldeman Tract near Elizabethville and at Mount Gretna near Game Lands 145. US 322 from Brickerville toward Cornwall is a recommended drive in the area.



The town of Jim Thorpe, enveloped in fall's vivid display. (photo by R. Reed)



Brilliant fall foliage at Haldeman Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by J. Wolesslagle)



Incredible fall color in Stony Valley, Dauphin County. (photo by A. Brought)



Vivid colors along a field edge, Haldeman Tract. (photo by J. Wolesslagle)



Wagner Gap, Tuscarora State Forest District. (photo by J. Wolesslagle)

In Buchanan State Forest (Franklin, Fulton, Bedford counties), full fall color abounds. With pleasant weather on the way, this weekend is setting up for prime foliage viewing. Birches, maples, and hickories are vibrant, with oaks just beginning to add color. Consider a picnic at the Sideling Hill Picnic Area (Fulton County) to observe some beautiful fall scenery.

In Rothrock State Forest, foliage has just peaked and is beginning to wane. While many birches and maples have great color, they are losing more leaves each day and treetop branches are starting to show. Oaks are peaking now and holding most of their leaves, but these leaves will drop soon too. Even though leaf color is at or just past peak, the colors are still magnificent, and the ridgetop vistas continue to be the best viewing locations in the district.



Colerain Vista, Rothrock State Forest. (photo by J. Thompson)

Michaux State Forest is currently at spectacular peak color. White oaks are fantastic, and red oaks are gradually brightening. Tulip poplars are yellow and sugar maples are exceptionally bright this year. Breathtaking fall scenery can be seen on a drive from Caledonia State Park to Pine Grove Furnace State Park along Route 233.



Sunrise atop Dark Hollow Vista in Michaux State Forest. (photo by J. Schwartzer)

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Delaware State Forest (Pike and Monroe counties) reported the entire region continues to be at peak color this week. Most birches and red maples have dropped their leaves throughout the area, but scarlet and white oak continue to show vibrant variations of red. Hickories are currently showing vivid shades of yellow. Even some of the sugar maples that were late to change are still showing some pleasant yellow colors. Red oaks are adding rusty orange colors, while sassafras is displaying bright yellow in some areas. The best places to view fall foliage this week will be in the oak forests throughout Pike County.



The view at Camp William Penn, Delaware State Forest District. (photo by J. Maza)



High Knob Firetower, Delaware State Forest District. (photo by J. Maza)

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported past peak conditions in Susquehanna and northern Wayne counties, while Lackawanna and southern Wayne counties are starting to fade. Wyoming County forests are still peaking but will begin to fade over the forecasting week. Luzerne County forests are at full peak, which should continue into next week and begin fading near Halloween. Species in full color are red maple, black gum, sassafras, white and red oaks, birches, beech, and aspens. Recommended places to visit for gorgeous fall color include Moon Lake Recreation Area, Crystal Lake and Montage tracts, and Francis Slocum and Nescopeck state parks.



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

Southeastern Region



Foresters in William Penn State Forest District reported peak foliage throughout the area this week. Awesome fall color is emanating from maples, hickories, sassafras, birches, and some oaks. A trip to Texter Mountain (Wertz Tract) will reveal bright colors from poplar and American beech. Route 724 south of Reading is recommended for a scenic drive to see the beautiful fall colors.

Beautiful spicebushes brighten the forest understory of many southeastern forests of Pennsylvania. (photo taken in Lancaster County, by R. Reed)