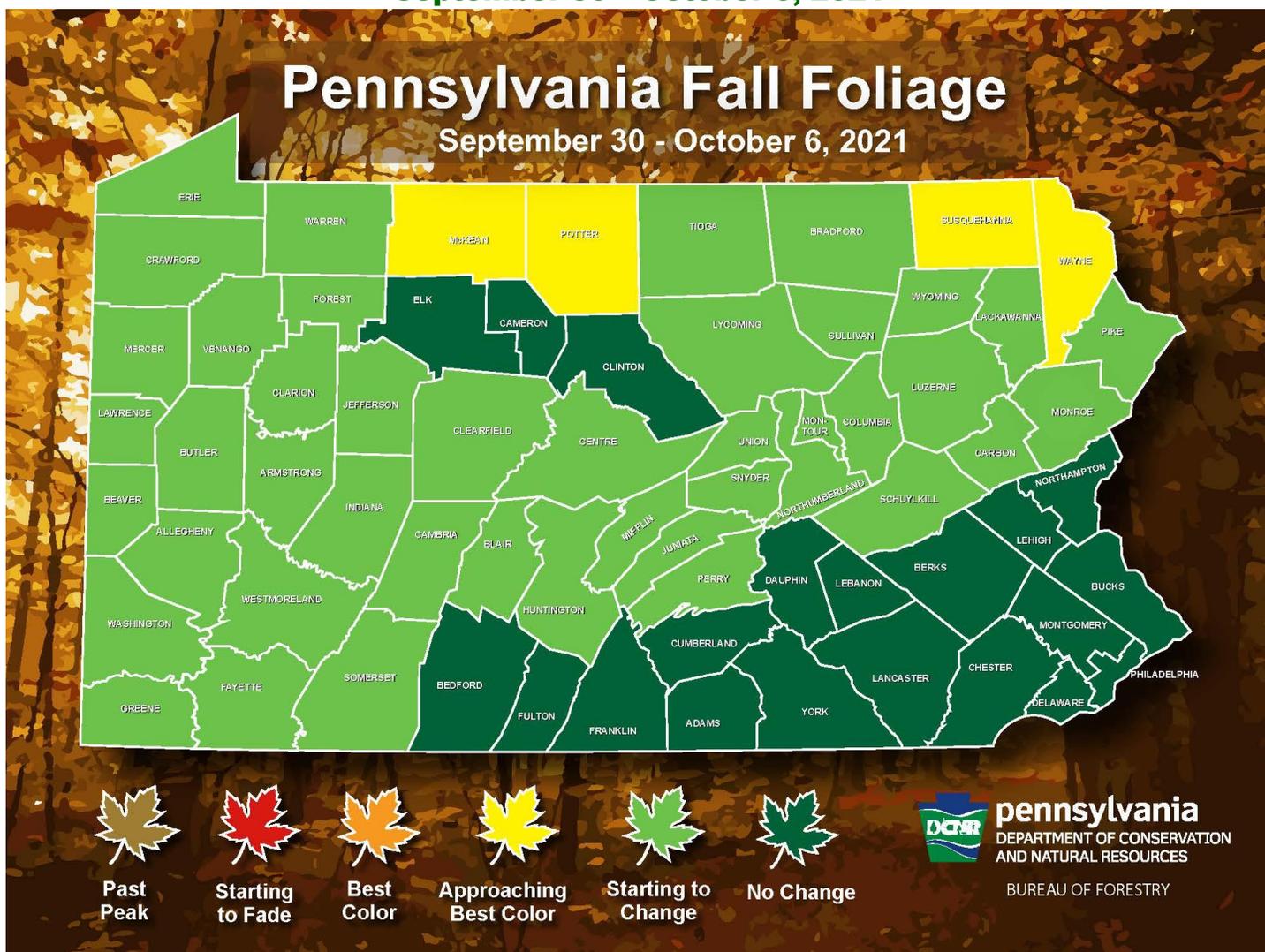


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry**

**PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT**

**September 30 – October 6, 2021**



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 most of Penn's Woods are still forest-green, the recent cooldown and colder nights observed statewide have spurred noticeable changes in the northern tier. The ten-day forecast indicates seasonable to below-average temperatures, which should compel steady changes throughout the commonwealth. Abundant rainfall throughout the growing season has primed Pennsylvania forests for a fantastic fall foliage season. Expect a vibrant, beautiful show!

## Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) reported that warm, sunny days and noticeably cooler nights have initiated the fall foliage season in northwestern Pennsylvania. Yellow seems to be the dominant early color as displayed by aspen, ash, and locust species. Other shrubs that are displaying early bright colors are sumac and dogwood. Fall coloration is just beginning but already there is a blush over the landscape as the green leaves begin their transition to a rainbow of fall colors. The weather is cooperating to not only enjoy the fall foliage but to visit one of the many fall festivals occurring in the region. Peak fall foliage in the area is expected in mid-October.



*Staghorn sumac. (photo by C. Stelter)*

## Northcentral Region

The district manager in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties) indicated that maples have started to change to red, maroon, and brilliant orange. There are clumps of trees and individual trees that are showing vibrant colors. Maple color is expected to quickly accelerate this next week as nights are expected to be cool with the potential for frost. The best places to see color now are in the northern half of Potter County and near Denton Hill on Route 6. Recommended scenic drives include Route 6, Route 44 from Carter Camp (north), Routes 49 and 449, and Route 144 between Galeton and Carter Camp. Peak color for northern hardwoods is expected to begin around October 8, and late October for oaks.

Foresters in Loyalsock State Forest report good progress for fall color in the region. Maples have been the first species to show vibrant color. Since wetter locations often change a little earlier, forest visitors are advised to target Sones Pond, Bear Wallow, or Shanerburg Road to get an early taste of the fall foliage in the district. Peak color is expected during the week of October 10.



*Denton Hill area, Potter County. (photo by C. Nicholas)*

The Tioga County service forester reported that foliage has just started to turn, with green the dominant color. A few red maples are transitioning to their signature red, while sugar maples, striped maples, and birches are changing to gold or yellow. Colder temperatures in the coming days should bring more color to Tioga State Forest soon. Peak is expected in mid-October.

Foresters in Elk State Forest (Elk, Cameron counties) reported very little color change in the oak-dominated forests of the district.

Forestry staff in Sproul State Forest reported no fall foliage observations for the district.



*Bright sugar maples, Moose Grade Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)*

The Clearfield County Service Forester (Moshannon Forest District) reported that understory plants are beginning to turn color, including red sassafrasses and black gums. Ferns are transitioning to a pleasant yellow, and blueberry is scarlet. Individual red maple trees are bright red, and spotty sugar maple trees have turned yellow. A recommended drive is Mud Run Road to Moose Grade Road, to Buskirk Road to Tyler Road, and back to Mud Run Road.



*Centre County is still quite green. (photo by C. Neuffer)*

### **West-central and Southwestern Regions**

In Venango and Clarion counties (Clear Creek Forest District), a few species are just starting to show their red, purple, and yellow colors including black gum, dogwoods, Virginia creeper, sumac, sassafras, red maple, and black walnut. Good places to see fall colors in the area include Brady's Bend Overlook, Seneca Fire Tower at Cook Forest State Park, Beartown Rocks in Clear Creek State Forest, Kennerdell Overlook (Venango County) and just about any view from a kayak or canoe on the Clarion River.



*Brady's Bend Overlook, Clarion County. (photo by H. May)*

The Forbes State Forest Environmental Educator reported that Mt. Davis (southern Somerset County), is just beginning to turn. With recent cooler temperatures, it won't be long until color change accelerates. Laurel Mountain is beginning to display some scarlet hues as a result of black gums turning, and cinnamon ferns are just beginning to yellow – a sure sign that fall is here! Chestnut Ridge is still fairly green, with occasional pops of color from black gum and maple.

Allegheny, Greene, and Washington counties all are still very green. Expected cooler weather should result in some beautiful autumn colors on the ridges first, with lower-elevation areas to follow. Forbes State Forest visitors are recommended to climb the observation tower at Mt. Davis for a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape, or take a scenic forest drive.

Gallitzin State Forest (Blair, Indiana, Cambria counties) staff reported minor changes in the district, with spotty color on individual branches and isolated trees. Peak color is still weeks away, with green by far the dominant color.

### Central and Southcentral Regions



*Spicebush, a common understory shrub, adds fall interest in a woodlot in Lebanon County. (photo by R. Reed)*

In Bald Eagle State Forest District, the Mifflin, Juniata, and Union County Service Forester reported early color in the region, with some scattered yellow and red. Peak color in the area is at least two weeks away.

Bureau of Forestry staff at the Mira Lloyd Dock Center (near Potters Mills, Centre County) indicated that they have begun to see the first signs of fall color in vibrant red maples, along with yellow from birches and sycamores. However, peak color is still weeks away in the area.

The Tuscarora State Forest District is still green overall, but higher elevations are displaying some early fall hues. Red maples and black gums are exhibiting spotty color, with a few poplars adding some yellow.

In Weiser State Forest District, the fall transition has been minimal. However, there are some pockets showing good color on Broad Mountain in Carbon County. Black gums are already displaying peak color. The noticeably colder nights should bring more color next week.



*Vista on Tower Road, Buchanan State Forest. (photo by G. Eitner)*

In Buchanan State Forest (Franklin, Fulton, Bedford counties) foresters reported early indicators of fall color. Only black gums have started changing to a bold crimson, which is easy to spot on a drive or hike. The best places to see color at this time are Broad Mountain Road (Franklin County, Bear Valley Division), Tower Road in Allen's Valley, Bark and Summit roads (Fulton County, Sideling Hill Division), and Martin Hill and Blankley roads (Chaneyville Division).

In Rothrock State Forest, Huntingdon County, black gums are reddening while black birch, maple, and walnut trees are showing hints of yellow. The northern portion of the district (southern Centre County) will have the most colorful leaves now until peak color, which is expected in mid-October.

The Michaux State Forest (Adams, Franklin, Cumberland counties), fall indicator species are displaying some color. Virginia creeper vine and dogwoods are changing to reddish-purple, and understory spicebushes are yellowing. Peak is estimated in mid- to late October.

### **Northeastern Region**

In Delaware State Forest (Pike, Monroe counties), maple colors of red, orange, and burgundy have been intensifying. Hickories have yellowed, and black gums, commonly found along district streams and lakes, are turning shades of red. Highbush blueberries along the waterways are still a nice shade of red, and ferns on the forest floor are becoming yellow. The best locations to see fall color in the region are around higher elevation swamps and lakes of northern Monroe and Pike County. Promised Land State Park, White Deer Lake, and Pecks Pond are some great locations to see the most vibrant colors, currently.



*White Deer Lake, Delaware State Forest. (photo by G. Beers)*

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported that Susquehanna and northern Wayne County forests are approaching peak color, with good progress in northern Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming counties. Many maples, aspens, and birches have started to change color along with understory plants like fern and winterberry. The transition is expected to accelerate as the nights get colder. State forest visitors should target the Brownell Reservoir, Moosic Mountain, and Thornhurst tracts in Lackawanna County; or Ricketts Glen or Salt Springs State Park to experience some great fall color.

### **Southeastern Region**

Foresters in William Penn State Forest district report no significant fall foliage observations.