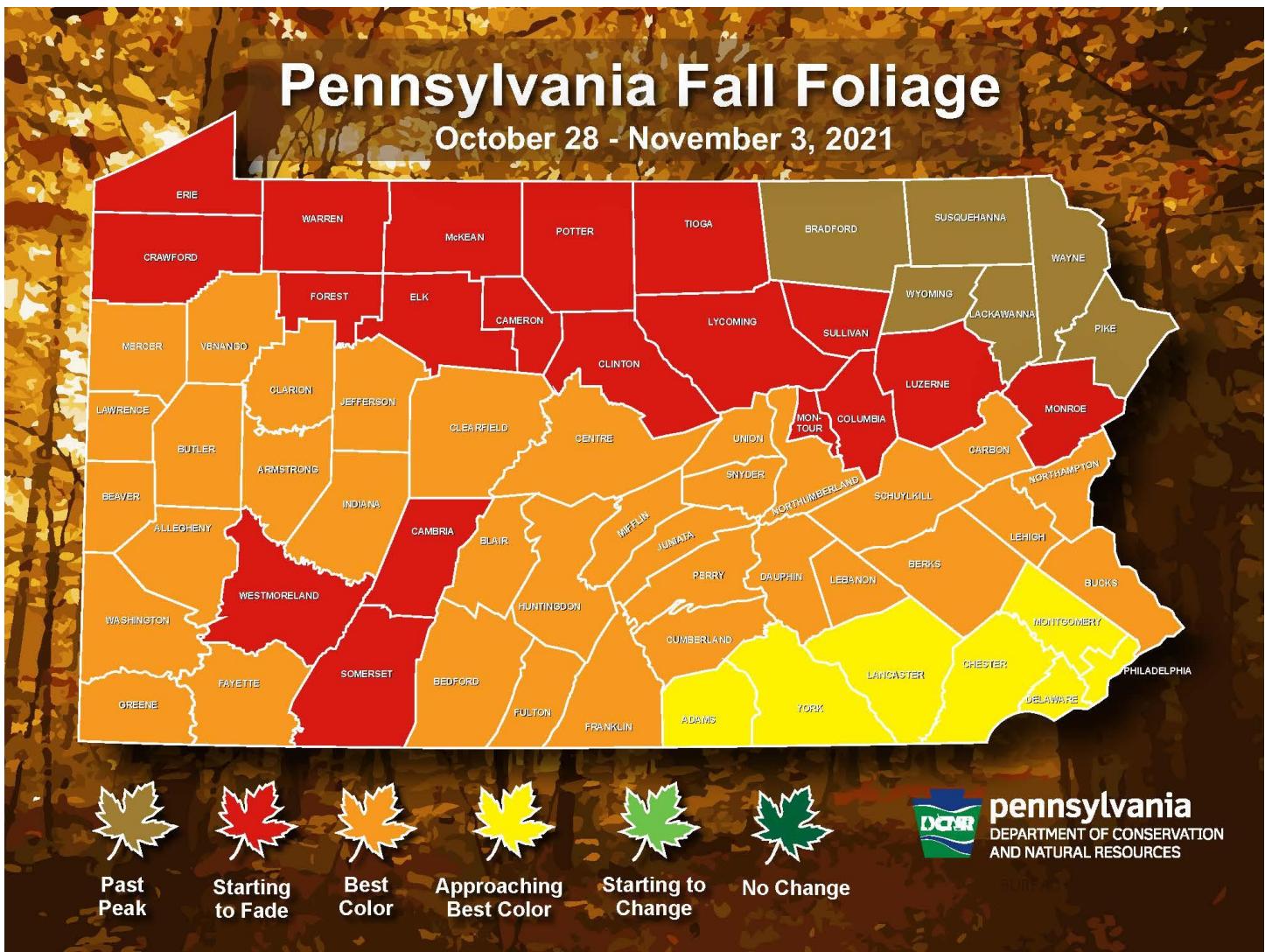


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources Bureau of Forestry**

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 28 – November 3, 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

Alternating periods of cool to abnormally warm weather have slowed the stages of fall color transition, leading to an unexpected (but welcome) lengthening of peak conditions throughout a large part of the commonwealth. Pennsylvania's southern Appalachians are currently awash with beautiful fall color. Excellent fall scenery persists in much of the state's western half, while southeastern areas are just beginning to shine.

Northwestern Region

The manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie, Crawford counties) reported that peak color has passed in most of the area. Most of the hillsides in northwestern Pennsylvania have transitioned to the deeper fall colors of gold, brown, and chestnut. Recent rains have caused some leaves to fall but there is still much color to be seen throughout the region. Many oaks are finally displaying their colors, and opportunities abound to enjoy a fall experience on state forest and state park lands.



Pleasant fall color off Route 417. (photo by T. Ryen)

Northcentral Region



PA Grand Canyon at Colton Point. (photo by T. Oliver)

The Tioga County service forester reported seeing the best colors and views of fall foliage since the start of the season. This year's unusual color progression has finally revealed vibrant, widespread color. US Route 6 is a colorful drive through the district. Colton Road to Colton Point State Park offers scenic views of the PA Grand Canyon, which has shifted from green to a sea of yellows and reddish orange. Continue past Colton point to West Rim Road to Blackwell to admire picturesque autumn scenery.

The Clinton County service forester (Sprout State Forest) said that regional color is fading. On the ridges, oaks are just starting to brown, and maples are losing their leaves. In the valleys and on the hillsides, the color is muted, and rains

and wind are taking many of those that remain. Fall foliage sightseers should focus on the southern parts of the district, such as Whiskey Run (north of Farrandsville) and Beech Creek roads.

In Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County, foresters indicated that the area never seemed to hit a well-defined peak. Leaves of many species have gone from green to brown. Although a few muted shades can still be found, fall foliage season is winding down in the district.



Warpath Vista, Susquehannock State Forest. (photo by C. Nicholas)

birches have lost their leaves, but some are displaying full color. Also, oaks and beech are nearing peak color, resulting in an uneven mix of bare trees, full color, and completely green trees. For a pleasant view in the area, High Knob Vista overlooks a scenic oak flat.

In Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties), most vibrant color has disappeared, but beeches and oaks are nearing their best shades. Pleasant fall views still await those adventurous enough to hike the Twin Sisters Trail off Red Ridge Road in the Hammersley Wild Area.

The Elk County service forester said heavy rain and wind knocked down many of the remaining leaves over the weekend. Oaks are still changing but colors appear muted, overall.

Forestry staff in Loyalsock State Forest reported an unusual progression of color in the district this year. Warm weather slowed the color change and peak color for northern hardwoods was about three weeks late. Most maples, cherries, and



Pretty fall shades on Bark Camp Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)



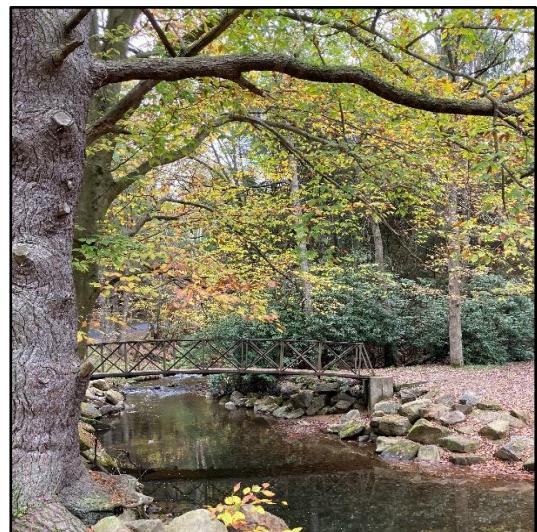
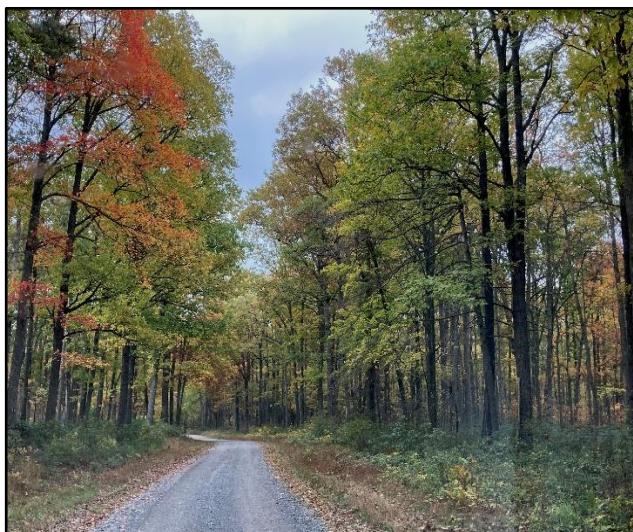
Gifford Run Vista, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by Z. Miller)

The Clearfield County service forester (Moshannon State Forest District) stated that peak color has passed, but it is still beautiful in the region. The recent rain and wind have taken down many of the maple leaves, but those remaining show pleasant yellow and orange colors. The remaining sassafras and black gum are still providing nice yellow and red, and beech stands in the Penfield area sport vivid yellow. Oaks across the district are providing subtle yellow and orange shades, as well. Routes 322, 255, and 153 in the DuBois-Rockton-Penfield area will provide sights of bright yellow beech leaves with scattered, vivid maple, amid a background of yellow and orange oak.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The service forester for Venango and Clarion counties (Clear Creek Forest District) reported that recent heavy rains and dropping temperatures kicked fall color into “full gear.” The best time to view fall color is now and may only last through the early part of the forecast period. Oaks are showing nicely with deep burgundies, rich browns, and dark golds. Maples, birches, hickories, and sassafras are either at their peak or have already dropped leaves.

Good places to see fall colors include Brady’s Bend Overlook in Clarion County, Seneca Fire Tower at Cook Forest State Park, Beartown Rocks in Clear Creek State Forest, Kennerdell Overlook in Venango County and just about any view along a rail trail or from a kayak or canoe on the Clarion River.



(L) Little Clear Creek Road, Clear Creek State Forest. (R) Clear Creek, Clear Creek State Park. (photos by H. May)

The Mercer County service forester reported peak color this week. Maples are vibrant yellow and orange, with some red mixing in. Poplar and cucumber magnolias are also displaying bright yellow hues. Oaks are still nearly all green, contrasting nicely with the brighter colors. With the coming rain, great color is not expected to last much longer. Fall foliage viewers are recommended to visit Maurice Goddard State Park for a gorgeous autumn display.



Nice fall color at Lake Wilhelm near Maurice Goddard State Park. (photo by D. Cole)

The Cambria County service forester (Gallitzin State Forest District) reported past peak foliage in the higher elevations of the Babcock Division. In the lower elevations like Altoona, the recent cold nights have improved the variety of color. This weekend should be a good time to take a hike or drive for scenic fall viewing. The area should be at peak stage during the early part of this forecast period, but starting to fade by the end.

The Forbes State Forest environmental educator said unseasonably warm temperatures and a lack of heavy rain events have kept leaves on trees throughout southwestern PA. Areas that have peaked are still retaining many leaves and even some color. Even though peak foliage is past for mountainous areas of Somerset County, oak and beech leaves are still hanging on with spotty colors. The eastern portion of the Laurel Ridge is still showing some beautiful color that will likely fade within the next week. Leaves are changing, but mixing with green in Washington, Greene, and Allegheny counties. The best color for these areas will hold for another week or two, but coloration is spotty.

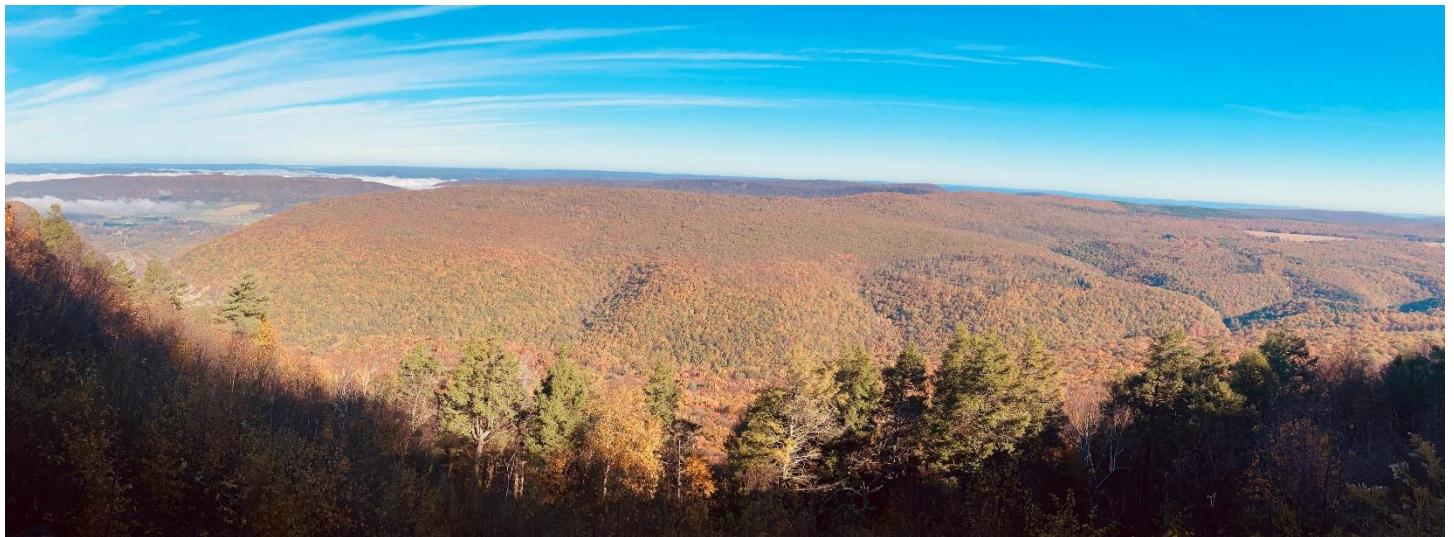
Central and Southcentral Regions

Weiser State Forest staff reported peak foliage in the district, with many oak and hickory trees turning their characteristic golden yellow. Other species at peak are maples, birch, tulip poplar, black gum, and sassafras. Fall foliage sightseers are advised to visit the Haldeman Tract near Elizabethville. Colors are also beautiful at Hickory Run and Tuscarora State parks.



Beautiful fall shades at the Haldeman Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by A. Brought)

In Bald Eagle State Forest, Centre County, foresters reported peak color in the region, which is expected to last into early November. Oaks have begun to show pleasant color, offering great fall views on the mountains. Great fall foliage can be observed throughout the Seven Mountains area.



Riansares Mountain Vista, Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by M. Beaver)

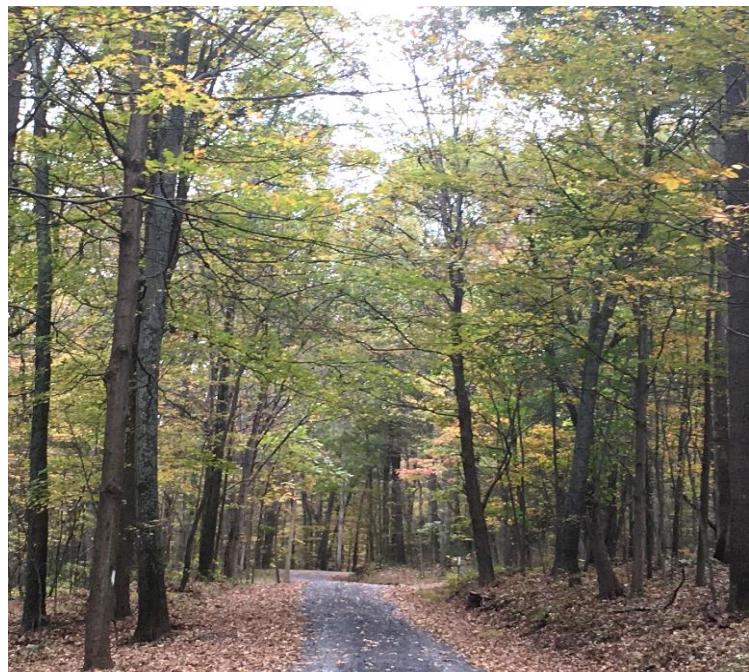


Impressive fall color at the Penn Nursery fire pond. (photo by C. Neufer)

Foresters in Rothrock State Forest said foliage remains vibrant in most areas. Oaks continue to change while other hardwoods like birch and red maple have peaked and begun to drop leaves. Other species like hickories and poplar are showing their most brilliant colors of the fall. By the end of the forecast period, the best color will be isolated to the southern half of the district, where hickories are bright yellow to orange and many sugar maples are exhibiting vivid color. Oaks have also changed significantly adding yellow, orange, and crimson. The areas around the Alan Seeger Natural Area are still beautiful, and excellent color can also be found in the Trough Creek Division. For great fall color, take a hike on the Terrace Mountain Trail, or a scenic tour on Trough Creek Drive and Cassville Road.



L: Vivid hickories (photo by J. Thompson). R: State forest road, Trough Creek Division. (photo by R. Reed)





Warm fall color at Little Buffalo State Park. (photo by J. Woleslagle)

Foresters in Perry County (Tuscarora State Forest) reported peak colors across the district, with best fall color expected to persist through the forecast week. Many ridges are dappled with vibrant colors of maple, birch, and hickory trees. The leaves are starting to come down due to wind and rain, but some great color can be seen across central and southcentral Pennsylvania.



Gorgeous fall color on Route 74, Tuscarora Mountain. (photo by L. Book)

In Buchanan State Forest, maples, black gums, hickories, and birches are in full color, exhibiting mostly yellows and light brown/orange. Most oaks are green, but prime colors are expected within the next week. This would be a great weekend to go for a drive on just about any road in the district. U.S. Route 30 gives some great scenic views starting at Fort Loudon and heading west through Fulton and Bedford Counties.



Sweet Root Natural Area, Chaneysville Division, Buchanan State Forest. (photo by K. Ewan)

The Cumberland/Franklin County service forester serving Michaux State Forest reported the region is at peak color. Maples are ablaze with yellows, oranges, and brilliant reds; while oaks have joined the display but are not fully changed. In terms of color progress, the Cumberland Valley is just behind South Mountain in Cumberland and Franklin counties. The full length of Route 233 from Pine Grove Furnace to Mont Alto is giving a wonderful show this week. District vista views currently shine with the colors of fall. For those on foot, Pole Steeple is a recommended hike to enjoy the best of the fall spectacle.

Northeastern Region

The Pike and Monroe County service forester (Delaware State Forest) said fall color has diminished in the region. Oaks are progressing to their characteristic shades of brown, with a few still retaining green. Some pockets of red maple still sport their red and orange colors and black birch has turned golden yellow. Abundant fall color can still be found in the Monroe County portion of the district, but it is declining. The best fall colors can still be viewed at Big Pocono State Park and Blue Mountain in southern Monroe County.



Egypt Meadow Trail, Delaware State Forest. (photo by G. Beers)

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported that the northern majority of the district is past peak, and most leaves are down. Good fall foliage viewing opportunities remain in the southern half of Luzerne County, however.

Southeastern Region

The assistant manager at William Penn State Forest said the district's northern counties are entering full color, while the southern counties are lagging a bit behind. Beautiful colors can be seen on sassafras, maples, and hickories. Fall foliage enthusiasts should visit any of the region's state parks, or take a hike on the Wertz Tract or Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area.