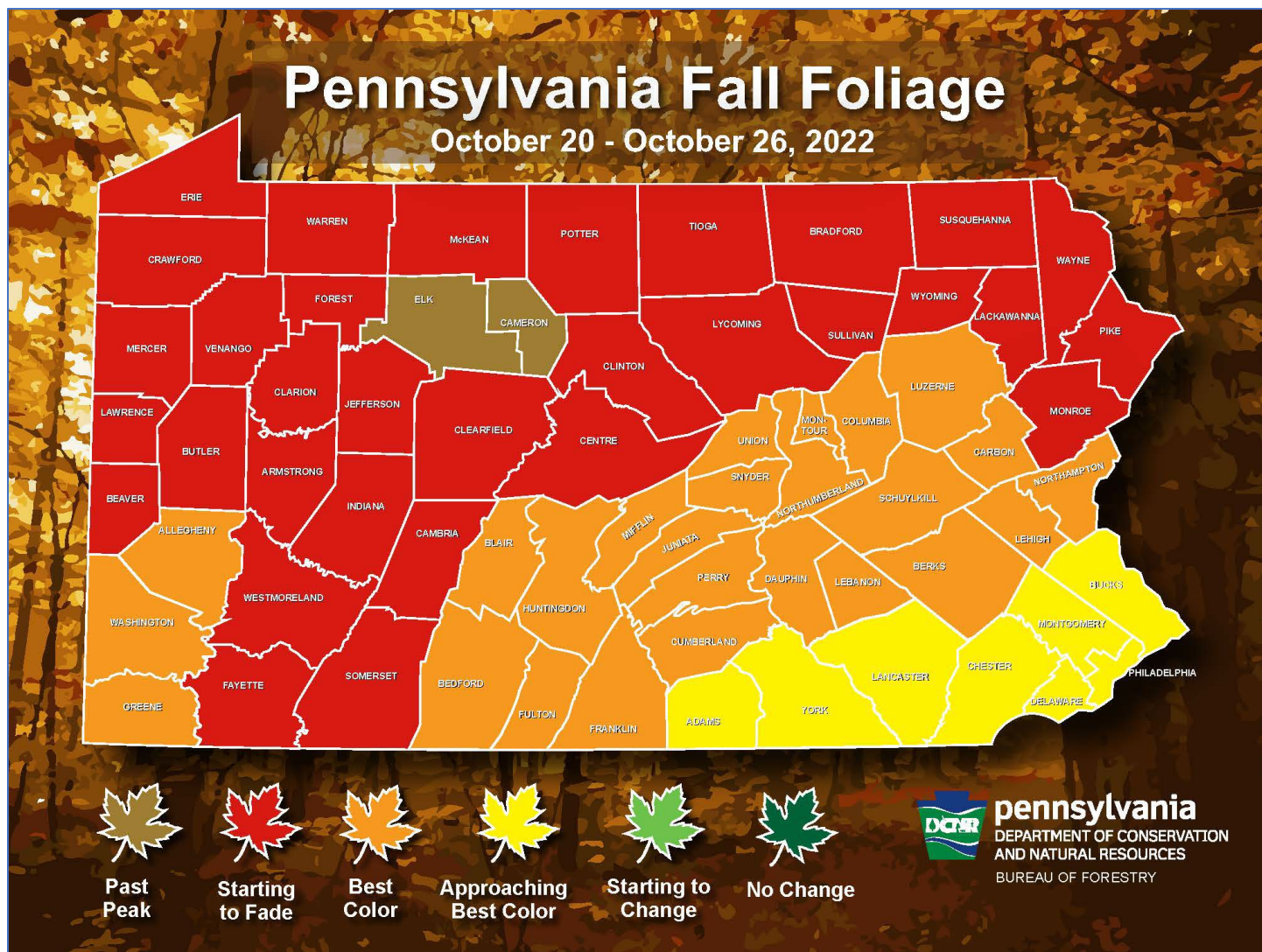


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 20 – October 26, 2022



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 rain and wind stripped many colorful leaves from maples, exciting fall shades can still be found across most of the state. The best color this week will be found in the central/southern Appalachians and the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. Cold overnight temperatures should spur the last push of color in oak stands and southeastern PA forests.

Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) reported oaks and hickories are displaying brownish-red and bright gold, respectively. Many other species have already displayed their best colors and are now dropping their leaves, especially with the recent rains. Some green spots are still visible on the hillsides so there are still opportunities to catch the fall colors, but don't delay. Drives to view the beautiful scenery continue to be Route 62 along the Allegheny River, US 6 in the Warren area, and Route 8 from southern Venango into Erie County.



Fall color is still amazing in Warren, PA. (photo by T. Ryen)

Northcentral Region

The district manager in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties) said most of the leaves in the maple dominated forests have come down over the last week, but there are still some isolated locations of good color. Cherry, aspen, and beech are showing some attractive color. Oaks have progressed well and should be at peak by this coming weekend through next week. Good drives to catch the last of the best fall colors are routes 144, 44, and 872 in southern Potter County, and Route 321 along the Kinzua Branch of the Allegany Reservoir in McKean County.

Foresters in Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan counties) said color is starting to fade in most of the district. Maples, cherries, and birches are dropping their leaves quickly. Beeches are still green, so some color will continue for a few weeks. The oak-hickory forest type, particularly at the Little Bear and Grays Run tracts, is a little later to change and beginning to peak now. For a beautiful view and a challenging hike, take the Loyalsock Trail from Little Bear Road to the north, climbing the mountain to the top of Smith's Knob for an amazing view of the Loyalsock Valley.

The Tioga County service forester said the majority of Tioga State Forest is still a beautiful sight to see, but at the tail end of peak color. Although the northern hardwood species have peaked and most of the sugar maple and cherry leaves have fallen, the remaining foliage is still vibrant. Beautiful shades of yellow, red, and orange can be found throughout the forest. The US 6 corridor is currently gorgeous, as well as both sides of the PA Grand Canyon.



Elk Run Vista on Cedar Mountain Road, Tioga State Forest. (photo by T. Oliver)

Staff in Tiadaghton State Forest said northern hardwoods are past prime in the district, but oak stands are now colorful. Routes 414 and 44 offer pleasant, scenic drives in the area. Hikers should focus on Miller Run Natural Area or either of Algerine or Wolf Run Wild areas for attractive fall color.

The Clinton County service forester (Sprout State Forest) reported peak conditions now, with all the ridges “ablaze with color.” The upper plateau region is fading, but there will still be plenty of color to be seen by visitors this weekend.



View from Coffin Rock Fire Tower, Sprout State Forest. (photo by A. Peters)

The Elk County service forester reported that recent rain and wind removed most fall color. Some color remains on oaks, but the shades are a muted tan or brown.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The Mercer County (Clear Creek State Forest District) service forester reported that foliage has peaked in the district, but much color remains. Most maples are past peak and have been dropping leaves; however, scattered maples and even some entire hillsides still have brilliant yellows, oranges, and fiery reds. Oaks are just starting to turn in some locations, with red oaks showing dazzling shades of red. Color transition in oaks should accelerate over the forecast week with the recent cold snap. District forests contain a substantial oak component, so visitors to the region should expect attractive fall color to last into next week.

In Forbes State Forest District, the education specialist said most ridges of the Laurel Highlands are fading, but small patches of Chestnut Ridge and Laurel Ridge still have some very nice color. Russet and gold colored oaks are the main attraction now, comprising the last of the beautiful displays of the season. Other areas of southwestern PA are at peak, with many recently losing foliage due to wind, rain, and snow. Fall foliage season is nearing its end, so be sure to get outdoors soon to enjoy some of the last attractive color of autumn.

The Gallitzin State Forest (Blair, Indiana, Cambria counties) district manager said most maples have reached full color and the windy weather has begun to bring down these leaves. Oaks and beech have vigorously changed to red, orange, and yellow due to the cooler temperatures. Visit the Rager Mountain Division of Gallitzin State Forest from Route 403 to Cooper Avenue, then Dishong Mountain Road to US 22 for a beautiful drive.

Central and Southcentral Regions

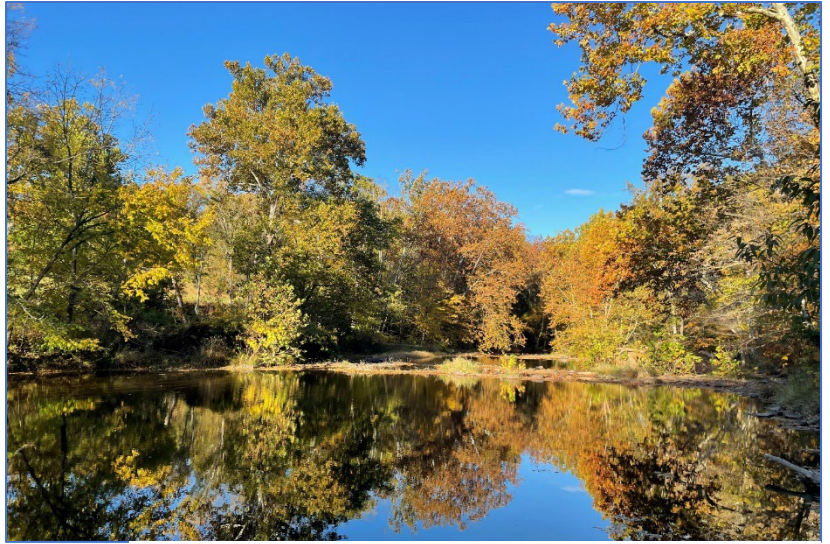
In Bald Eagle State Forest District, the Mifflin, Juniata, and Union County service forester said most deciduous species are still showing peak color, which should remain through the weekend. Oaks are also contributing to the color palette now, with a few still showing green for excellent contrast. Visitors to the district should consider a picnic in the beautiful Hairy Johns Picnic Area, or an excursion to Poe Valley, Reeds Gap, or R.B. Winter State parks.



Sand Mountain region, Centre County. (photo by J. Osborne)

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reported color in Tuscarora State Forest and southcentral PA will be best this week. The ridges and mountains are full of color, so it's a great time to go for a drive or hike to enjoy the fall scenery. Routes 74, 75, 233, and 274 are ideal corridors for beautiful views now.

Foresters in Buchanan State Forest (Fulton, Bedford counties) reported gorgeous color across the district, but recent wind has dropped many leaves. With the current cold snap, oaks will join in on what may be the last major push of color in the region. Any road with a vista or a view of the mountains would be a great drive to see fall foliage in Bedford, Fulton, and Franklin counties.



Shermans Creek near Blain. (photo by L. Book)



L: Flaming sugar maple color, southern Huntingdon Co. R: Even the deer seem to be appreciating the fall color. (photos by R. Reed)



Fantastic scenery around the Buchanan State Forest Resource Management Center. (photo by B. Wilford)

Forestry staff at Weiser State Forest are noticing brilliant tones of yellow on hickory, tulip poplar, black birch, and some oaks. Variable shades of orange and red are displayed by black gum, maples, sassafras, white oak, and dogwoods. Conditions in the area are very favorable for fall color viewing now. The Roaring Creek Tract and Haldeman Tract hang glider launch area are great spots to enjoy the fall colors occurring on state forest and beyond. In the northern end of the district, peak colors are still present except in oaks, and some leaves are falling. Recommended scenic drives are routes 42 or 54 from Columbia County into Schuylkill County.



View from the Natalie Culm Bank looking north to Roaring Creek Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by J. Bausinger)

The education specialist in Michaux State Forest said the district is at peak and “absolutely gorgeous!” Red maples, black gum, and beech are all showing off. Great places to drive to see fall colors include Buzzard's Rock, Dark Hollow Vista, or Long Pine Run Reservoir. For a hike, the Pole Steeple and Sunset Rocks trails both provide excellent views.



The view from Buzzard's Rock, Michaux State Forest. (photo by T. Bechtel)



The beautiful Waynesboro Reservoir. (photo by S. Hartley)

In the Trough Creek Division of Rothrock State Forest (Huntingdon County), colors were stunning last weekend and peak color should hold on through the early part of this forecast period. In many parts of the district, best leaf color is

beginning now and will likely continue through the next week or so. Hickory, poplar, and maple are contributing vivid shades of yellow, orange, and red. Oaks and beech have also started to change, dappling the ridgetops with more vibrant colors. This weekend should be the best chance to catch a glimpse of this yearly spectacle, especially with the beautiful weather expected this weekend. To enjoy the fall scenery, recommended drives include routes 994, 913, and 655, or take a hike at Raystown Lake or Warriors Path State Park. Ridgetop vistas will always be the best places to observe maximum color, but everywhere in the forest is beautiful right now.



Route 994 near Cooks. (photo by R. Reed)



Raystown Lake. (photo by J. Thompson)

The Clearfield County Service Forester (Moshannon State Forest) said good color remains but it is starting to fade. Frosty nights and windy days have caused maples to shed leaves. Remnants of last week's show remain, but bare spots are developing. Bright yellow is now found on American beech, witch-hazel, sassafras, and striped maple. These species, many of which occupy the lower canopy, provide a pleasant contrast with the taller oaks. Most oaks are beginning to change from green to muted yellow and orange. A recommended driving loop on Moshannon State Forest is Mud Run Road, Tyler Road, Blackwell Road, Saunders Road, Caledonia Pike, McGeorge Road, back on Tyler Road to Mud Run Road.



Heavy, wet snow yesterday took down many leaves in Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)



Warm fall colors on Blackwell Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest said Susquehanna and northern Wayne counties are past peak. There are a few holdout spots of color, but trees are mostly leafless in this area except for oaks due to recent wind and rain. In Lackawanna and southern Wayne, foliage is starting to fade. Wyoming County is still in peak but will fade throughout the forecast week. Luzerne County forests are peaking, offering remarkable scenery. Species in full color are red maple, black gum, sassafras, white and red oaks, birches, beech, and aspens. State forest lands to visit in the region include Moon Lake, Crystal Lake, and Montage tracts. Sightseers should also consider visiting Francis Slocum, Nescopeck, and Hickory Run State parks for some outstanding fall displays.

The Delaware State Forest (Pike, Monroe counties) service forester said peak color has just passed and is starting to fade. Rain and wind took their toll on foliage and have caused leaf drop. Oaks are starting to turn a reddish-brown and beeches are showing their yellow and bronze fall colors. Hickory species are still displaying golden colors, with sassafras still sporting orange and yellow leaves. Huckleberry and blueberry are showing their maximum red fall color. Eastern and southern Monroe County have the best fall color in the area. Attractive fall color can be seen in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and on Blue Mountain.



Headwaters of Tarkill Creek, Delaware State Forest. (photo by G. Beers)



Southeastern Region

The Northampton County service forester (William Penn State Forest District) reported the northern half of the district is at peak color, including Lehigh, Berks, and Northampton counties. All species are showing attractive color except for oaks. Area visitors are recommended to see Jacobsburg State Park, Blue Marsh Lake, or the George Wertz Tract.

Poplar stand in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County. (photo by J. Nissen)