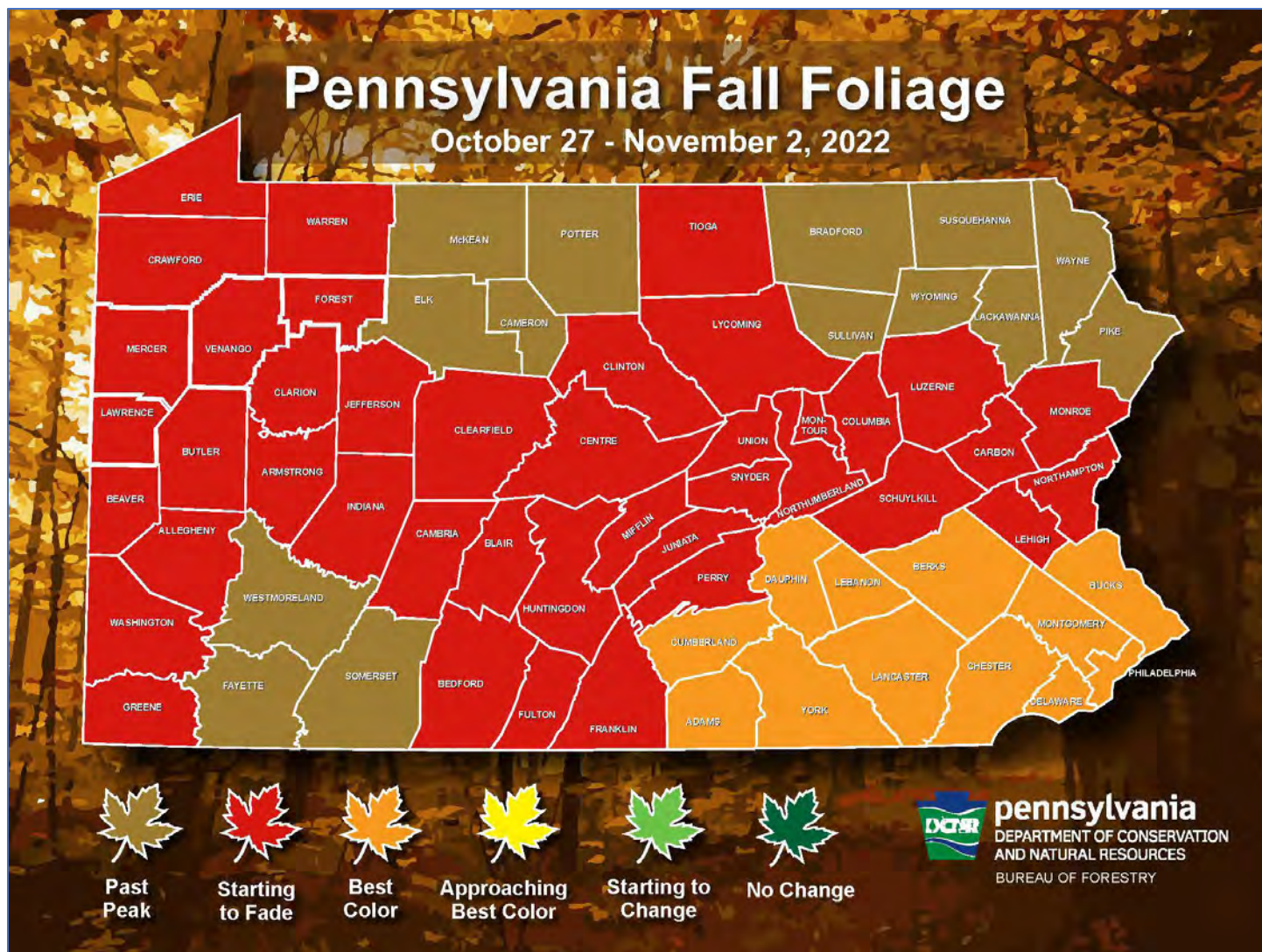


Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 27 – November 2, 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

Fall foliage season is winding down but there are still plenty of opportunities to view some beautiful fall shades in the commonwealth. Recently warmer weather suspended the leaf color transition in many areas, and oaks have just begun their colorful displays on the ridgetops. Sightseers should target the southeastern quarter of PA for best color this week.

Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) reported that most hillsides in northwestern Pennsylvania have transitioned from yellow, red, and orange to deeper gold, brown, and chestnut colors. Colors across the region continue to be very bright this year, especially on sunny days. Recent rains have caused some leaves to fall but there is still much color to be seen throughout the region. Many of the oaks are finally displaying their colors and visitors to the area can expect to see attractive fall scenery for another week.



Warm autumn colors remain in Venango County. (photo by T. Ryan)



Vibrant sweet gum, Venango Co. (photo by C. Stelter)

Northcentral Region

The district manager in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties) said fall foliage season is over in the region.

Foresters in Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan counties) said color in most of the district is past peak now. Red maple, sugar maple, cherries, and birch have lost their leaves. The oaks in the Little Bear area are nearing peak color. A ride up Little Bear Road offers some nice scenery with a pleasant view toward Huntersville.

The Tioga State Forest assistant manager said there is still some nice color to see in the district, especially along US 6 and in stands of oak. Most northern hardwood (maple, birch, cherry) leaves are down, but pretty color can still be found on aspens. A trip to the Pine Creek Gorge will still reveal some attractive color as well.

Staff in Tiadaghton State Forest said the forest is still colorful but fading by the day. Oaks and beeches are contributing color, with some remaining bright spots from poplars and hickories. This weekend will likely be the last to see nice fall color in the district.

The Clinton County service forester (Sproul State Forest) reported past prime color, but still abundant viewing opportunities. Fall color is widespread, but in most places about half of the leaves have fallen. Still worth the trip to see, the best regional color is currently found in the valleys and on lower slopes.



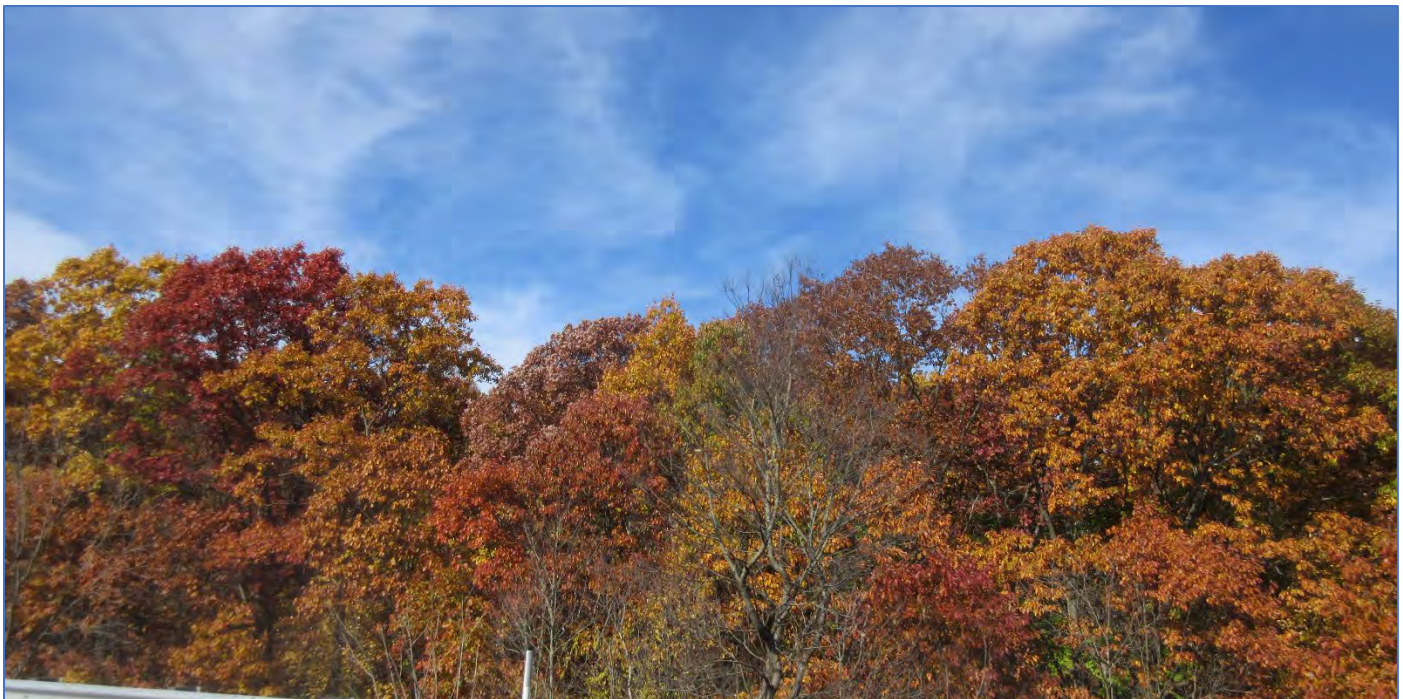
Pretty colors at Hyner Run State Park. (photo by L. Greenaway)

The Elk County service forester reported that northern Elk and Cameron counties have essentially no color remaining, with only dull oak color in the southern reaches of the district.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The Mercer County (Clear Creek Forest District) service forester said leaves are still beautiful along US 80 in western Pennsylvania. Some maples have lost their leaves, but others are still clothed in full color. Yellow, orange, and brilliant reds abound in most areas. Plentiful oaks have caught up and are dazzling yellow, bronze, and deep maroon. Impressive color is expected through the weekend.

In Forbes State Forest District, the education specialist said beautiful fall colors are still hanging on in much of southwestern PA, making this one of the most colorful autumns in years. Most of the ridges are past peak, with oaks, hickories, beech, and other late-to-turn species displaying yellows, russets, and orange. The lower elevation counties of southwestern PA are fading, but still retain good color.



Warm fall hues along US 80 near Foxburg. (photo by D. Cole)

The Cambria County (Gallitzin State Forest District) service forester said the region is past peak in higher elevations of the Babcock Division (east of Windber), though there is still some good color to observe. However, fall foliage is thinning by the day in the area. The lower elevations of Blair County are also past peak, though color is still good. This weekend will probably be the last to get a good look at the pleasant fall colors.



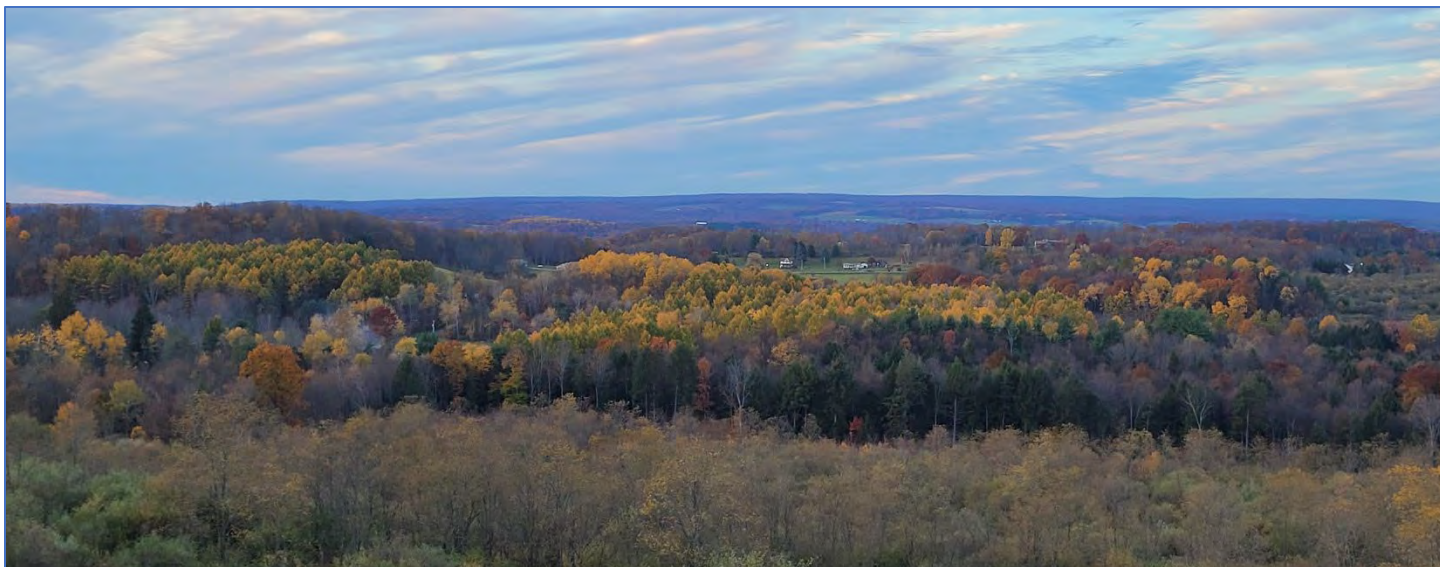
Red oaks are contributing bright color in the Rager Mountain Division, Gallitzin State Forest. (photo by C. Jones)

Central and Southcentral Regions

In Bald Eagle State Forest District, the Mifflin, Juniata, and Union County service forester said most deciduous trees and shrubs are dropping leaves. Oaks are brown and yellow, indicating the season is ending, but there are still a few pops of red. Visit one of the many vistas to see a panoramic view of fall foliage.



Colorful view from Route 45 in Centre County. (photo by J. Osborne)



Fantastic larch color near Curwensville Lake. (photo by J. Osborne)

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reported there is still some great fall foliage to be seen around the district forests and southcentral PA. Leaves are starting to fall due to wind and rain, but great color can still be seen on many ridges.



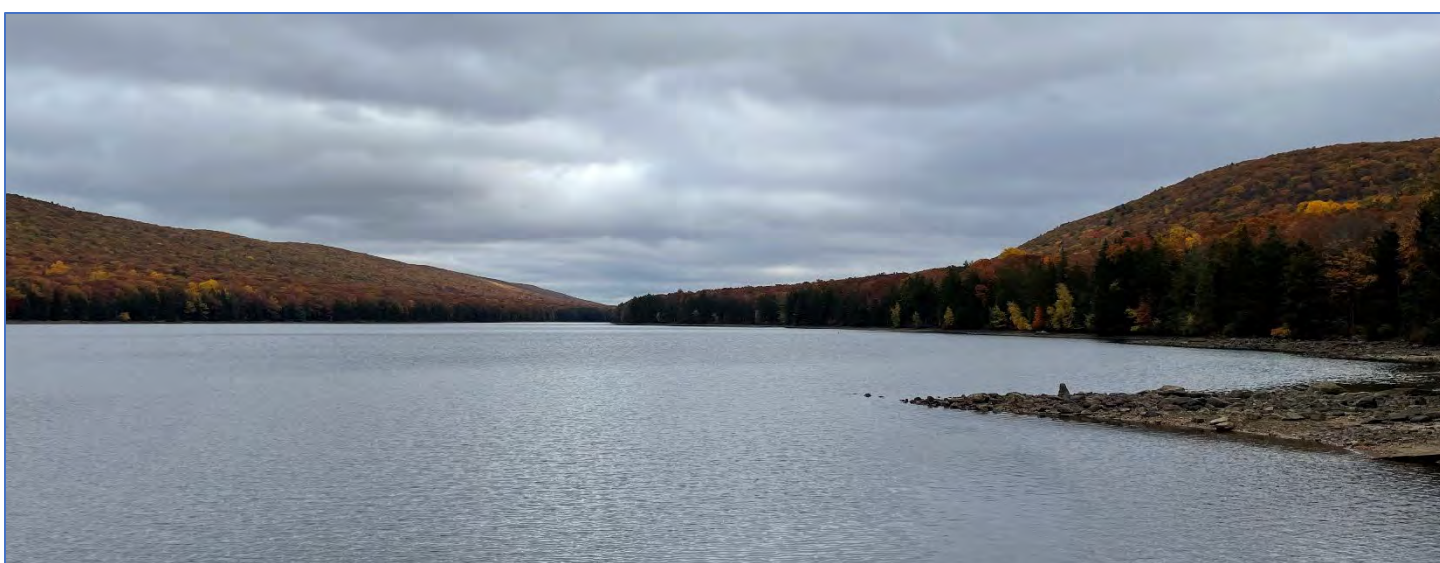
Beautiful forest edge near Port Royal. (photo by L. Book)

Foresters in Buchanan State Forest (Fulton, Bedford, Franklin counties) reported that foliage is starting to wind down in the district. Oaks are starting to turn hues of brown, blending in with yellow and gold hickories and maples. Leaves are dropping quickly, so this may be the last weekend to see nice fall color in the region. The Martin Hill area in Bedford County is recommended for scenic viewing.



Sweet Root Vista, Martin Hill Division, Buchanan State Forest. (photo by K. Ewan)

Forestry staff at Weiser State Forest reported Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, and Carbon counties are starting to fade and said this will probably be the last week of good viewing. Oaks are finally starting to change, and recent weather has been stripping the leaves from maples, birches, and hickories. The area's river valleys still present good opportunities to see attractive fall scenery. In Dauphin and Lebanon counties, most oaks are changing color and vibrant maples, poplars, sassafras, and hickories are still hanging onto their leaves as the weather has been favorable for fall colors this year. Due to the warmup last week, best color should persist in these counties through this forecast week.



McWilliams Reservoir, Weiser State Forest. (photo by J. Bausinger)



Hang glider launch area, Haldeman Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by A. Brought)

The Clearfield County Service Forester (Moshannon State Forest) said patches of attractive color remain in the region, but it is fading fast. American beech has turned from yellow to a brilliant bronze and oaks are showing subtle yellow and golden brown. A drive on Caledonia Pike and Lost Run Road is recommended for seeing some of the last color in the region.

Rothrock State Forest staff said leaves are fading more every day, but some beautiful colors remain, especially on oak trees. Ridgetops are almost bare, but the valleys will hold color for another week or so. The southern half of the district near Trough Creek and Raystown Lake are recommended for viewing attractive fall color, currently.

The education specialist in Michaux State Forest said it is still beautiful in Michaux, but colors are fading and showing more shades of brown. Beacons of red, orange, and yellow are still visible across the forest. A diversity of color can still be seen on main roads like Route 233 or Shippensburg Road.



Attractive color along Route 233, Michaux State Forest. (photo by S. Hartley)



Colors are fading at Raystown Lake. (photo by J. Thompson)



Colby Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest said Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, and Lackawanna counties are past peak with most leaves down. Pockets of good color are still present in southern Luzerne County, but these will fade by the beginning of November. The recent weather has increased the rate of change and leaf drop. Recommended areas to visit in the state forest include Wanamie, Mocanaqua, and Crystal Lake tracts, or Nescopeck State Park.

The Delaware State Forest (Pike, Monroe counties) service forester said recent rain and wind have significantly reduced the number of leaves on trees. Oaks have all changed to a yellowish brown or burgundy. Hickory and sassafras both have yellow remaining. Most of the maples and birches are leafless, but witch hazel and huckleberry are displaying peak colors with yellow and red, respectively. The best places to see the remaining fall color are southern Monroe County and along Blue Mountain.

Southeastern Region

The Montgomery, Delaware, and Philadelphia County service forester reported peak to fading conditions in the William Penn State Forest District. Most of the district is beautiful now. A trip to any of the area state parks will be a pleasant experience for sightseers.



Beautiful colors at French Creek State Park. (photo by K. Kehres)