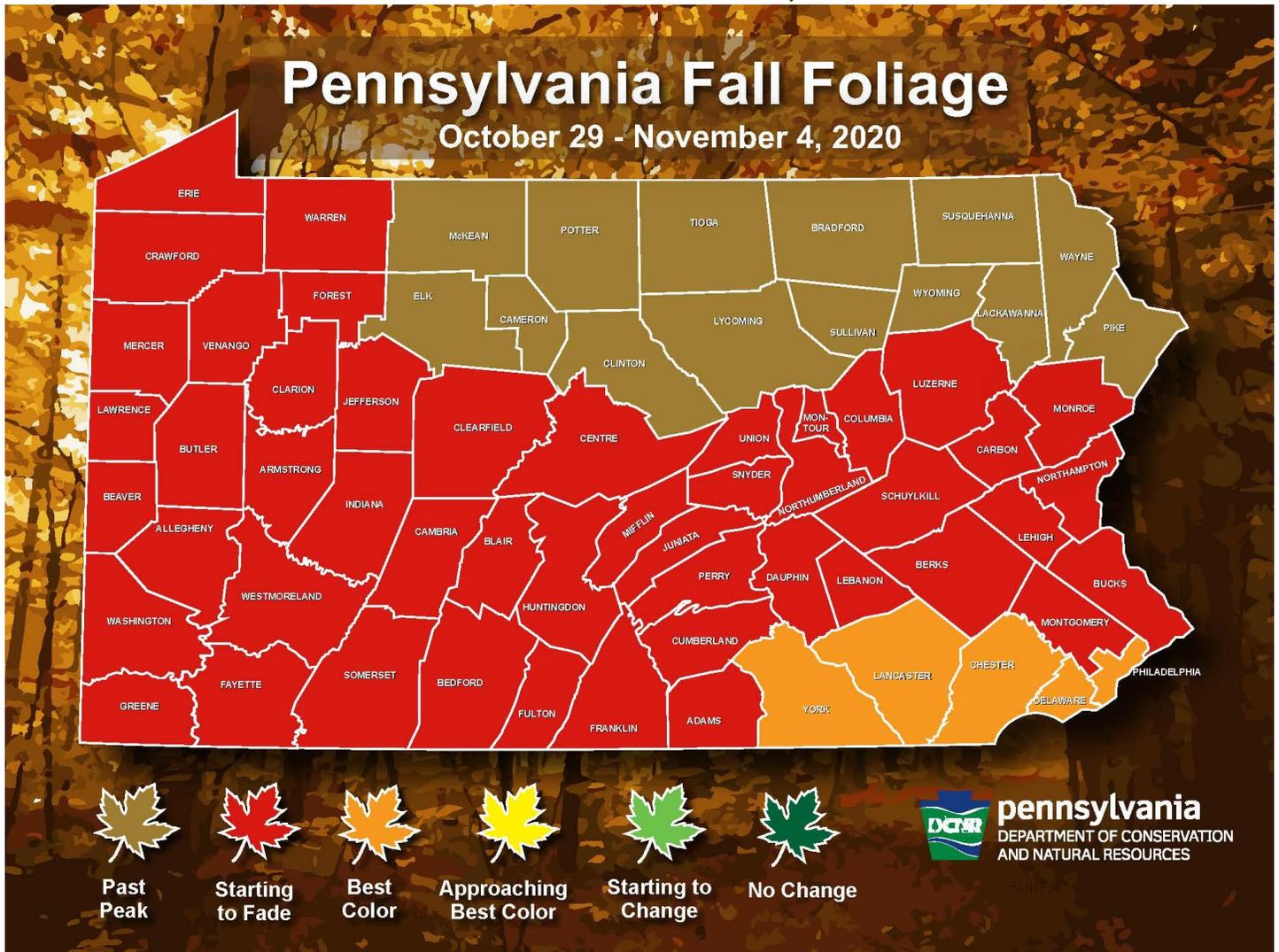


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry**

**PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT**

**October 29 – November 4, 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

The arrival of the remnants of Hurricane Zeta will likely bring the season to a rapid halt. This week's report will be the final installment for the year, ending reporting on what has been an exceptionally vivid fall foliage season in Penn's Woods.

## Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) reported that the hillsides of northwestern Pennsylvania are dotted with rustic brown, dark burgundy, and deep golden colors. Recent rains have caused many leaves to drop but there are still areas displaying the colors of fall. Oaks are richly displaying their late season colors, as are dogwoods, hickories, and beeches. This may be the last week to see significant color until next fall, so don't delay in making the last drive of the autumn season!



*Late fall color in Warren County. (photo by C. Stelter)*

## Northcentral Region

Color in most of Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan counties) is past peak. Beeches are still holding their copper-colored leaves and poplars are bright yellow, otherwise the trees are bare. In the Little Bear area, oaks are still in color but dropping fast, and the remnants of the hurricane may bring the display to a sudden end.

Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest reported most species are well beyond peak. Beech, birches, and larch are showing golden yellow color but are fading fast. Oaks are at peak with yellow, burnt-orange, and occasionally red colors observed. Recommended scenic drives include routes 555, 255, and Julian Pike.



*Shaggers Inn Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by B. Wilson)*

In Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties), leaf drop has mostly occurred, and the only holdouts are a few areas containing beech and mixed oaks.

Forestry staff in Tioga State Forest District (Tioga and Bradford counties) indicated that most leaves have dropped from northern hardwoods, but oaks are showing beautiful orange and russet colors. The Route 6 corridor is still a colorful drive in the area.

Foresters in Sproul State Forest (Clinton, Centre counties) reported that most leaves are down in the district, indicating the end of fall foliage season in the area.

In Elk State Forest, northern hardwood trees have essentially lost all their foliage. Oak stands still have some color, but today's rain and wind could strip many more leaves.

Foresters reported fading and past peak color in Tiadaghton State Forest. Deep orange and copper of oaks are the dominant colors, with speckles of yellow from the hickories, black walnut, and aspen in the valleys. Many trees are bare, however large stands of oak are still displaying color. Witch hazel is in full bloom, showing bright yellow along most forest roads.



*Bright hickory color along the Tiadaghton Trail. (photo by V. Curtis)*

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

The Clarion County service forester (Clear Creek State Forest District) reported fading color in the region. Most trees have dropped their leaves, except for oak, hickory, and aspen. Bright maroon and purple colors can still be found on white oaks, and hickories are bright yellow.

The Lawrence/Mercer County service forester (Clear Creek State Forest District) said that fall color is well beyond peak in the area. Most trees are bare, but red oaks have turned a striking bronze.

Foresters in Gallitzin State Forest (Cambria, Somerset, Blair counties) observed past peak conditions in the district. Although some nice color remained on oaks, hickories, and poplars, today's rain is compelling many leaves to the forest floor.



*Some beautiful fall color remained in Clear Creek State Forest District. (photo by H. May)*

Forbes State Forest staff stated that leaf drop continues across the Laurel Highlands with oaks still showing nice color. Significant leaf drop has occurred, and this trend will continue into November. Today's rain and wind will speed up this process.

For late season fall foliage enthusiasts, there are still good foliage viewing opportunities available in southwestern Pennsylvania. Sightseers should focus on oak-dominated forests if they plan to visit the Laurel Highlands as these are the primary sources of color remaining in the higher elevations. Look for sheltered areas that receive less wind. Yellow poplar and American beech continue to add yellows and golden browns to the late season display. Visitors to Allegheny, Washington, and Greene counties will see past peak fall color. The lower elevations of these counties will display the longest lasting color.

### **Central and Southcentral Regions**

The Mifflin/Snyder/Union County service forester (Bald Eagle State Forest) said district forests have faded to an orange-brown hue with some green, yellow, and red accents. There are also many pockets of leafless, grey trees throughout the region.

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reports fading color in the district. Pleasant fall color endures in the form of hickories and a few maples. Oak ridges are showing variable shades of yellow, dark red, and rusty brown. A drive on Route 274 is a good choice to see the colorful leaves, but the best viewing is west of the district office in Blain. Good fall color can also be observed at the Big Spring Picnic Area. Today's storm is likely to down many leaves, so remaining color could be short-lived.



*Bright autumn color at Big Spring Picnic Area. (photo by L. Book)*

Foresters reported fading color in Lebanon County (Weiser State Forest District), with still nice fall shades observed around Memorial Lake State Park and Blue Mountain. Given the dryness of the area during late summer and early fall, today's storm will probably drop many leaves.

The Schuylkill/Carbon County service forester said foliage is past peak now. Many oaks will continue to hold color for the next week to two weeks, but most colorful leaves have fallen to the forest floor. A few maples and hickories have retained their leaves and are still showing some sporadic fall color.

In Buchanan State Forest (Franklin, Fulton, Bedford counties), excellent fall color remained early this week. Hickories were by far the most vivid species, adding bright gold and yellow along the ridges. Oaks were also displaying a wide variety of colors ranging from yellow to crimson. Stormy weather could significantly cut short the fall display.



*Pretty fall colors persisted at Memorial Lake over the weekend. (photo by R. Reed)*



*Clusters of vibrant hickories, Black Valley Road, southern Bedford County. (photo by K. Ewan)*

In the northern section of Rothrock State Forest, foliage is past peak. Oaks are late-peak stage and leaf drop is expected soon. The fall colors are fading fast, but there is still some beautiful foliage. Many ridgetops are almost bare, but the valleys could show color for another week. The southern half of the district will be the best place to see color now. Still vivid color was observed at Trough Creek and Raystown Lake where hickories are abundant. Mountains surrounding routes 994 and 26 were awash with vibrant, golden hickory color over the weekend. The storm system today could abruptly end fall color, unfortunately.



*Left: A vivid hickory ridge. Right: a solitary, vibrant pignut hickory.  
Trough Creek Division, Rothrock State Forest. (photos by R. Reed)*

Foresters in Michaux State Forest related that the fall foliage season is “winding down.” Recent wind and rain knocked down many leaves. White and scarlet oaks are still showing pretty fall color. A hike on Buck Ridge Trail, where oaks are common, is recommended for viewing some of the last of autumn’s display.

### **Northeastern Region**

Foresters in Delaware State Forest (Pike and Monroe counties) reported most of the region is past peak color. Recent wind and rain forced most leaves to fall. Some dull orange color can still be viewed in the oaks and some brighter yellow colors can be viewed around lakes and swamps where tamarack is present.



*Pleasant fall color at Little Mud Pond. (photo by J. Maza)*

In Pinchot State Forest, fall color is disappearing rapidly. A few pockets of bright shades remained in Luzerne County, but today’s rain and wind will effectively conclude the season.

## Southeastern Region



*Brilliant maple color, Lancaster County. (photo by R. Reed)*

Foresters in William Penn State Forest District reported peak color in the region. Maples, birches, poplars, beeches, and oaks are adding a wide variety of bright colors throughout the area. Inclement weather could shorten the display depending on leaf loss during the event.