

Northwestern Region

The manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie, Crawford counties) reported that this week will be the last opportunity to view fall colors in northwestern PA as the fall foliage season is quickly coming to an end. Many leaves have fallen, but there are still some trees displaying autumn colors. Common foliage colors now on display are dark chestnut, gold, and rust.

Northcentral Region

In Susquehannock, Elk, Tioga, Sproul, Moshannon, Tiadaghton, and Loyalsock State forests, most remaining fall color is provided by mixed oaks, which dominate much of Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Clearfield, and Lycoming counties. Repeated nightly freezes continue to drop foliage throughout the region, signaling the end of the season is near.

West-central and Southwestern Regions



Oak color in Jefferson County off Route 949. (photo by H. May)

The service forester for Venango and Clarion counties (Clear Creek Forest District) said oaks are still going strong and holding their leaves. Rich maroons, burgundies, golds, greens, and browns provide gorgeous color in oak-dominated forests. Outside of small towns and urban areas, most other trees are bare.

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.

The Forbes State Forest environmental educator indicated fall colors are still hanging on in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, and Washington counties, although the majority of the color is past peak. Unseasonably cold temperatures last week through this past weekend dropped many leaves that were still green. Along the Laurel Ridge, fall foliage sightseers should target upland oak forests of the Blue Hole Division and the Barron Tract.

Central and Southcentral Regions

The Mifflin/Snyder/Juniata County service forester serving Bald Eagle State Forest District reported most of the oak dominated mountainsides are orangish-brown, with pockets of grey and green. There are still some lingering red and yellow highlights from maple, birch, and hickory, but the leaves are falling fast.



Warm colors from oaks in Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by J. Osborne)

Foresters in Rothrock State Forest said that most northern hardwood leaves have long since fallen and colorful hickory leaves are also falling more quickly by the day. Despite the loss of leaves, pockets of beautiful color remain where a few maples and hickories are vivid. Also, oak forests are just past peak after many freezing nights, offering the last phase of pleasant fall hues. While there are still a few oak trees holding onto some leaves out there, they are quickly changing from their yellow and bronze to brown and falling to the ground. The southern portion of Rothrock State Forest has a bit more color than the northern end, but it is fading rapidly.

Foresters in Perry County (Tuscarora State Forest) reported there is still some nice color to see in the district. Oaks are currently at peak, along with beech, hickory, and a few maple holdouts. A recommended scenic drive is Laurel Run Road in Perry County.



Laurel Run Road, Tuscarora State Forest. (photo by L. Book)

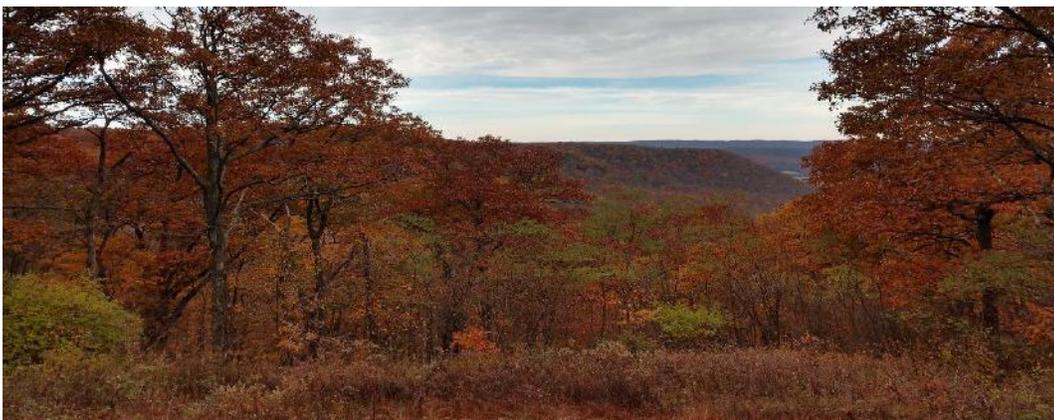
The Dauphin County service forester serving Weiser State Forest District said foliage is fading in the area, but oaks and hickories are still displaying golden yellow hues. The best colors in the district can be found in the southern halves of Dauphin and Lebanon counties.



Foresters in Buchanan State Forest said the fall foliage season is winding down for the year and this will likely be the last weekend for good viewing. A few maples and hickories are holding onto their leaves, yielding mostly yellow and orange. Oaks have finally started changing, but are mostly brownish in color and are quickly losing their leaves as well. The best color in the district is currently found in the Martin Hill area, Chaneyville Division, Bedford County.

Foresters serving Michaux State Forest reported fading color overall in the region. Almost all early color is gone; the midseason species are waning fast, while oaks are just starting to fade. Valley bottoms and lower slopes are catching up to the South Mountain ridgetops. Red, scarlet, and white oaks have taken center stage for the closing act.

Some maples and hickories are still vibrant in southern Huntingdon County. (photo by R. Reed)



Blue Mountain, in Northern Franklin County along Route 641 between Roxbury and Spring Run and the western slopes of South Mountain in Cumberland County are some of the best places to view mountains painted in late season colors.

Pretty fall color remains at Martin Hill, Buchanan State Forest. (photo by K. Ewan)

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Pinchot and Delaware State forests stated that most color has disappeared in the region after many freezing nights, with mixed oak stands progressing to their characteristic shades of brown. Some fall color can still be found in Monroe, Pike, and southern Luzerne counties, but it is declining quickly. The best fall colors can still be viewed from Big Pocono State Park and along Blue Mountain.

Southeastern Region



Marsh Creek Lake. (DCNR file photo)

Forests within the southern counties comprising the William Penn Forest District, including Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties are currently at the end of their peak foliage display, with fading conditions expected this forecast week. Maples, hickories, sassafras, oak, and beech are showing a wide array of colors ranging from bright yellow to deep red. Fall foliage sightseers are encouraged to visit Ridley Creek, White Clay Creek, Marsh Creek, Susquehannock, Benjamin Rush, or Neshaminy State parks to observe some of the last, most beautiful autumn color in Penn's Woods.