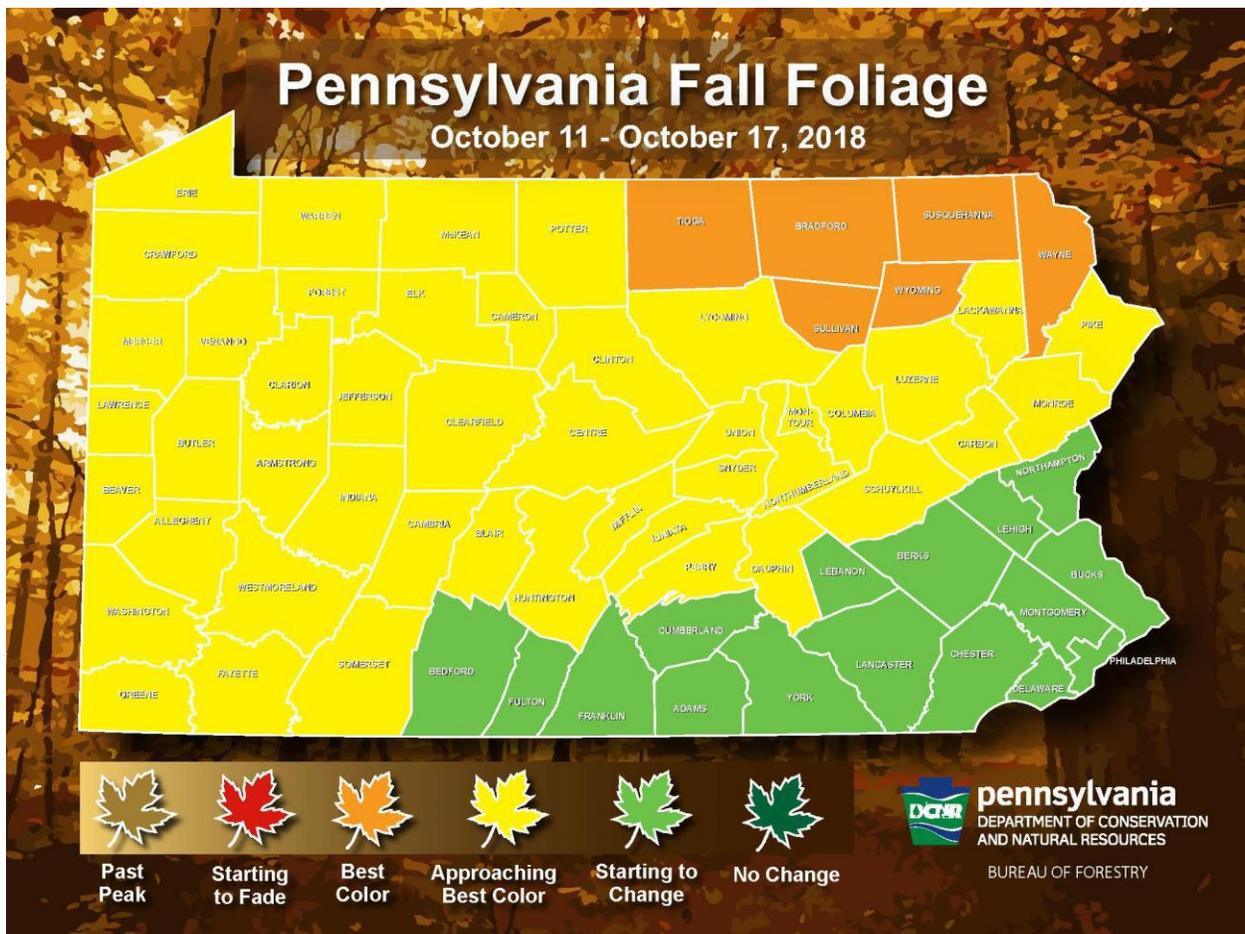


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry**

**PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT  
October 11 – October 17, 2018**

**New Map Format**

You will notice the fall foliage map is different this year. We hope you find it more useful and attractive. A few words follow on how to interpret the new format.



The new Fall Foliage Map is based on a color-code system, where brighter colors essentially mean more vibrant foliage. To predict peak season from the colors, use these guidelines:

- Dark Green/No change= peak is *approximately one month* away
- Light Green/Starting to Change= peak is *approximately 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

Above-average temperatures last week again stunted the foliage transition, however; decreasing day length has spurred noticeable changes throughout the state. Pockets of color have been observed in all Pennsylvania counties and peak foliage has been reported in the northeast. The cool, seasonal temperatures predicted to envelope the state beginning tomorrow should spur a fantastic and relatively rapid foliage change statewide. Next week's Fall Foliage Report (and hence, the landscape) should be popping with color!

### Northwestern Region

The Cornplanter State Forest district forester reports good early color in black gum, pin oak, and some sugar maples. Expected cooler nights should bring forth a rapid color change.

Suggested routes to enjoy fall foliage in the region include Route 62 from Franklin/Oil City along the Allegheny River to Warren, Route 8 south from Franklin toward Butler, and Route 948 from Sheffield toward Ridgway.



*A few pockets of color dot the forest edge in Warren County. (photo by C. Stelter)*

### Northcentral Region

Foresters report dispersed areas of peak northern hardwood foliage in Susquehannock and Tioga State forests. In Elk, Sproul, and Tiadaghton State forests, forestry staff report few notable changes while advising that the best foliage peak (traditionally northern hardwood species), will likely be supplanted by the oak/beech peak which occurs one to two weeks after the northern hardwood peak.

### Northeastern Region

Bureau staff in Loyalsock State Forest stated that foliage in most of the district is approaching peak. Oak-dominated areas, like Little Bear and Gray's Run, are just starting to change. Loyalsock Road and Loyalsock Canyon Vista are currently offering colorful fall scenery.

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest report nice color in red/sugar maples, black gum, sassafras, and birches. Sugar maples are expected to peak over the weekend. Red oak (orange), white oak (burgundy-red), and chestnut oak (yellow-orange) are predicted to begin changing over the next week and should contribute more color overall.

Delaware State Forest staff report most species around swamps and lowland areas at peak color. Red maples are showing a vibrant red color and more birches are turning bright yellow. Hardwood species such as poplar and sugar maple will be at peak throughout the week. Hickories and sassafras continue to peak, adding bright yellow and orange to the forest. Some oaks in scattered areas are starting to show slight color changes.



*Bright black gum and sassafras in the Seven Tubs area. (photo by T. Latz)*

#### **West-central and Southwestern Region**

Forbes State Forest staff report good progress on Laurel Mountain with black gums at peak and maple, birch, and sassafras contributing vibrant colors. An added touch of pale-yellow is coming from blooming witch hazel colonies. A beginner-friendly, guided hike to view the foliage is offered at Beam Rocks this Friday, October 12 at 6:30 PM. For more information, email [rmahoney@pa.gov](mailto:rmahoney@pa.gov) or call 724-259-2201.

Foresters in Clear Creek and Gallitzin State Forest districts report few changes from last week, however good color remains in areas of Mercer, Venango, Clarion, and Jefferson counties. Species providing mostly yellow shades include black cherry, aspen, cucumber magnolia, birch, poplar, and walnut.

#### **Central and Southcentral Regions**

Bureau of Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest noted that recent high winds stripped many leaves at higher elevations along U.S. 80. Areas of nice color persist around the Penfield area and Black Moshannon Lake. Foresters in Tuscarora and Buchanan State Forest districts have reported no notable foliage changes since last report.



*Early foliage changes near the Moshannon State Forest district office. (photo by R. Conrad)*



*Vivid forest edge in Clearfield County. (photo by L. Harman)*

Bald Eagle State Forest staff report early stages of color change. Black gum, Virginia creeper, and some dogwoods are crimson-red, and a few birches are at peak yellow. A few ash trees are showing purple and yellow, and black walnut trees in the valleys are also yellowing.



*Black birch at peak yellow. (photo by D. Ronk)*

Foresters in northern Rothrock State Forest (Centre, Mifflin, and Huntingdon counties) report bright color from birch, sassafras, spicebush, poplars, and red maples; particularly near the Alan Seeger Natural Area. A drive along Stone Creek Road or Bear Meadows Road is advised to view some nice (but early) fall foliage.

### **East-central Region**

Field staff in eastern Weiser State Forest (Schuylkill and Carbon counties) report a “big step” toward peak conditions this week. This week, expect to see more color from oaks featuring red, yellow, and russet-brown. Look for tulip poplar to add a brighter yellow in some areas. Hiking around Mauch Chunk Lake or a drive on Route 93 over Broad Mountain will reveal great color.

The Dauphin County service forester reports black birch, tulip poplar, wild grape, and hickory turning yellow. Black gum is displaying its classic, vibrant, deep-red color. Dogwoods and sassafras are turning yellow to peach, while a few maples are yielding yellow to orange.

### **Southeastern Region**

Foresters in Michaux and William Penn State Forest districts report that fall colors are “finally showing,” in the form of maples, black gum, and dogwoods. Spicebushes are also adding shades of yellow closer to the forest floor.



*Spicebushes with colorful berries. (photo by R. Reed)*