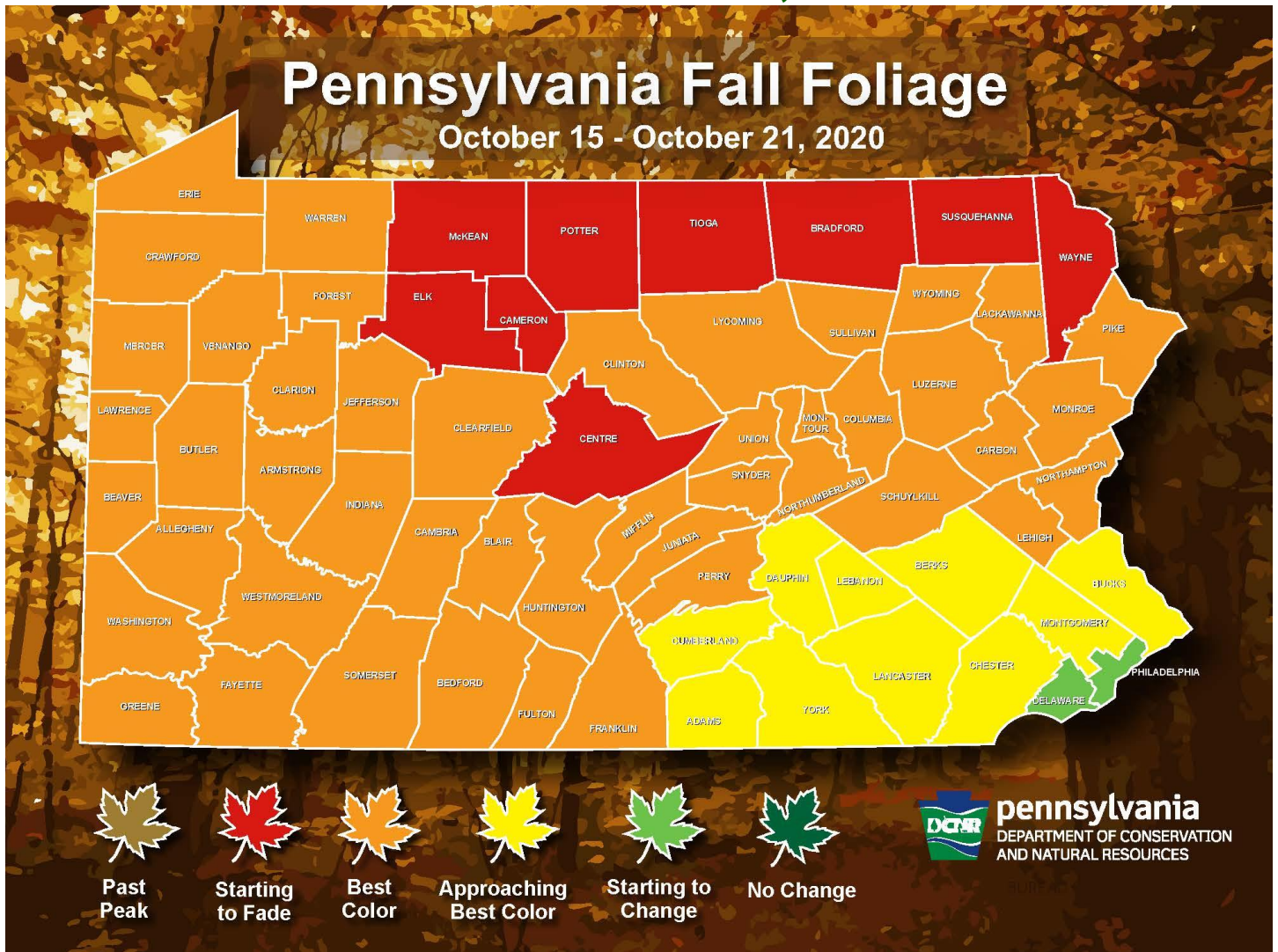


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

October 15 – October 21, 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

Spectacular autumn color persists throughout the commonwealth this week! From the northwest to the central Appalachians and Laurel Highlands to the Poconos, incredible fall scenery awaits. Cold nights in the forecast this weekend will likely snap southeastern forests into vivid color soon. With below average temperatures expected next week, the outlook for fall color remains outstanding for the commonwealth.

Northwestern Region

The district manager in Cornplanter State Forest District (Warren, Erie counties) related “bursting” color throughout northwestern Pennsylvania. The landscape is displaying a vivid mix of colors including yellow, orange, red, maroon, rust and amber shades. Recent rains have dropped some leaves, but this should be a great week for viewing the colors of fall! Route 6 around Warren and routes 8 and 62 along the Allegheny River are popular scenic drives. Also, consider traveling some back roads for unique opportunities to enjoy the beautiful foliage of Pennsylvania.



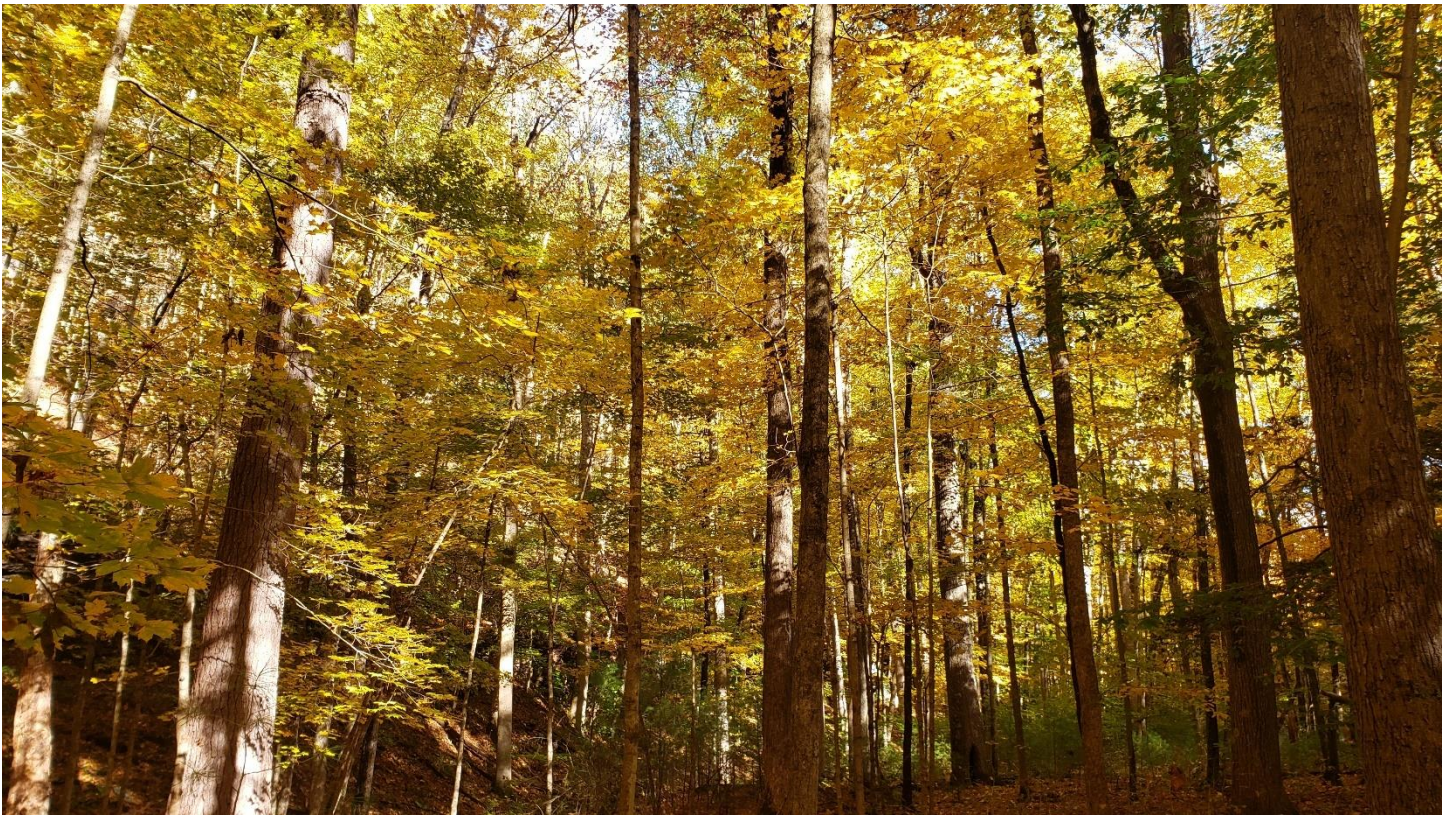
Bright colors of Warren County. (photo by C. Stelter)

Northcentral Region

Foresters reported plenty of color still to be seen in Tiadaghton State Forest. While birch, walnut, cherry, and some maples are starting to lose their leaves, oaks are in their prime and coating the mountains in oranges and reds. Striped, sugar, and red maples are still displaying bright color, as is sassafras in its current bright-yellow. Routes 44 and 414 are excellent corridors to view fall color; use Slate Run Road and Manor Fork Road to make a loop. Consider taking a drive on Sinking Springs and Browns Run roads to check out the vista and varied color of large stands of bright-red huckleberry that line most of the road. A guided fall foliage driving tour (10/16/2020 and 10/17/2020) to six different vistas is available. For more information, please check here: https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/event/fall_foliage_vista_driving_tour#.X4cH79BKjIU



Pine Creek at Hamilton Bottom (photo by V. Curtis)



Gorgeous maples, Tiadaghton State Forest at Trout Run. (photo by V. Curtis)

Color in much of Loyalsock State Forest (Lycoming, Sullivan, counties) is still at peak, with oaks and beech lagging a week or two behind. A recommended scenic drive near Williamsport on routes 87, 154 and 220 will give sightseers the opportunity to observe the still vivid colors of the district forest.

Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest report vivid, peak color remaining in the district. Maples, hickories, yellow poplar, and sassafras are still quite nice, but good color won't last much longer as leaves have been falling consistently. Beeches and oaks are beginning to add their vibrant colors to the forest landscape. A recommended drive is Route 153 to Parker Dam State Park, Penfield, and Boone Mountain.



Vibrant colors on Harley Dean Road, Moshannon State Forest. (photo by R. Conrad)



Great fall color at Parker Dam State Park. (photo by R. Conrad)

The district manager reported fading overall color in Susquehannock State Forest (Potter, McKean counties), but warm, bright colors from oaks. Most northern hardwood leaves are down with just beech, aspen, and cherry still displaying yellow and orange. A drive on US 6 from Galeton to Ansonia will show some nice color from oaks on south-facing slopes. Other recommended scenic drives include routes 872, 44 and 144. The oak peak is expected this week.

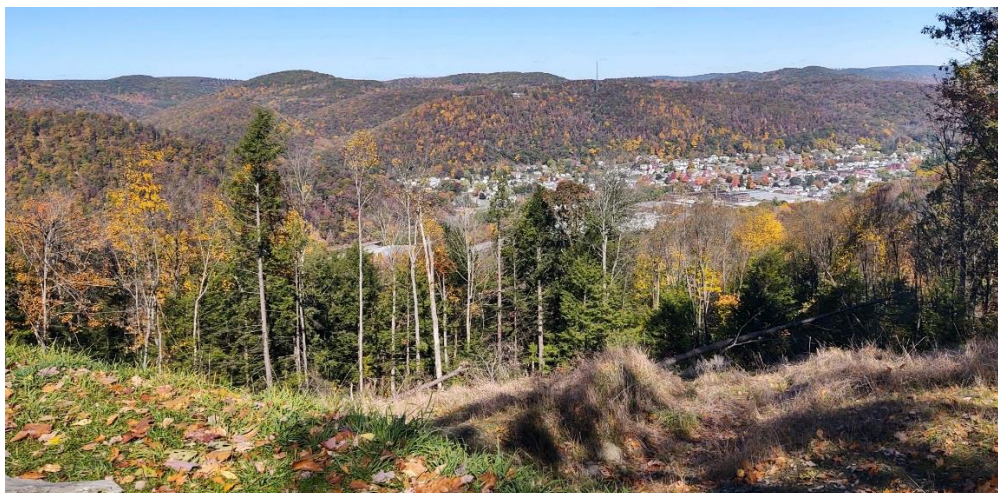


Oak colors are progressing at Pine Mountain Vista. (photo by C. Nicholas)

Forestry staff in Tioga State Forest District (Tioga and Bradford counties) related that despite the best color passing in the region, there are still plenty of beautiful shades in the district. Beech, aspen, and hickory are beautiful mixes of yellow, with oaks showing various tones of red and orange. Peak color for oak forests is projected next week when observers should see blazing orange hillsides and mountaintops. The US 6 corridor is still beautiful, as are the PA Grand Canyon and surrounding areas.

Foresters in Sproul State Forest (Clinton, Centre counties) reported that even though some trees lost their leaves during windy weather earlier in the week, remaining foliage is at peak color. Sightseers can expect conditions at full, vibrant color this weekend.

The Elk County service forester reported that wind and rain removed many leaves from red maples, but birches and sugar maples are still showing nice color. Oak color is still mostly green in the district but should progress with cold weather this weekend. Visitors are recommended to view the sights at the Elk Country Visitor Center, where fall foliage can be appreciated while listening to the sounds of bugling wild elk.



The view from South Mountain overlooking Emporium. (photo by T. Herzing)

West-central and Southwestern Regions

The Clarion County service forester (Clear Creek State Forest) reported peak colors for maple, spicebush, sassafras, black gum, elms, sumac, black walnut, basswood, birch, and beech. Oaks are also starting to show great color and will provide a second shot of vibrancy over the next week or two.

The Mercer/Lawrence County service forester (Clear Creek State Forest District) observed peak color in the area. Maples are displaying vibrant and dazzling reds, oranges, and yellows, and birch is solid yellow. Poplars are also turning yellow and some red oaks are starting to turn a dramatic bronze/red.

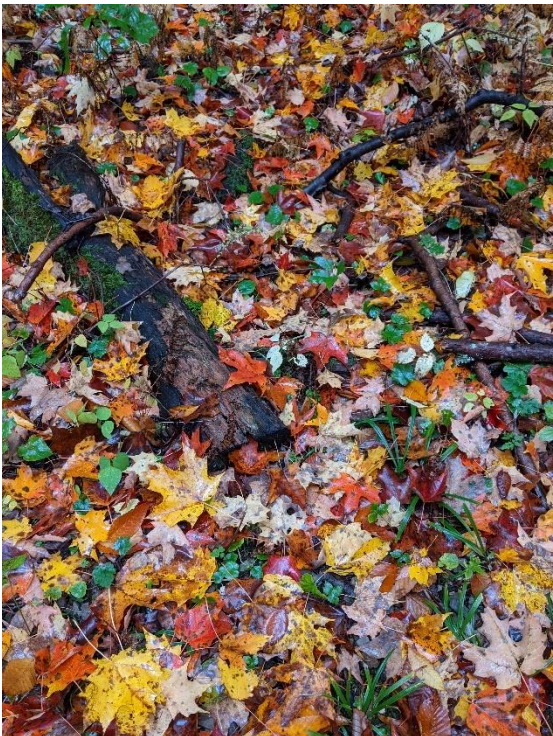


Nice maple color, Jefferson City. (photo by H. May)

Forbes State Forest staff reported peak fall color across much of the Laurel Highlands. Forests across Laurel Ridge and Somerset County are showing their best of the season. Oaks continue to slowly join in on the fall color, displaying burgundy, yellow, and brown. While many oaks still have much green foliage, this week will be the most colorful of the fall season for the Laurel Highlands. Chestnut Ridge, slightly lower in elevation than Laurel Ridge, will see peak fall color this weekend and into next week. Look for hickory trees displaying bright yellow this week in southwestern Pennsylvania. Greene and Washington counties are excellent locations to see the countryside dotted with golden-yellow, hickory foliage. Visit Keystone State Park in Westmoreland County for a nice hike or take in the bright colors around Keystone Lake. Take a hike to view the diverse forest of oak, yellow poplar, and maple in the Braddock Division of Forbes State Forest in Fayette County, south of Uniontown. A short hike to Cole Run Falls in the Blue Hole Division of Forbes State Forest, Somerset County, will provide great photo opportunities.



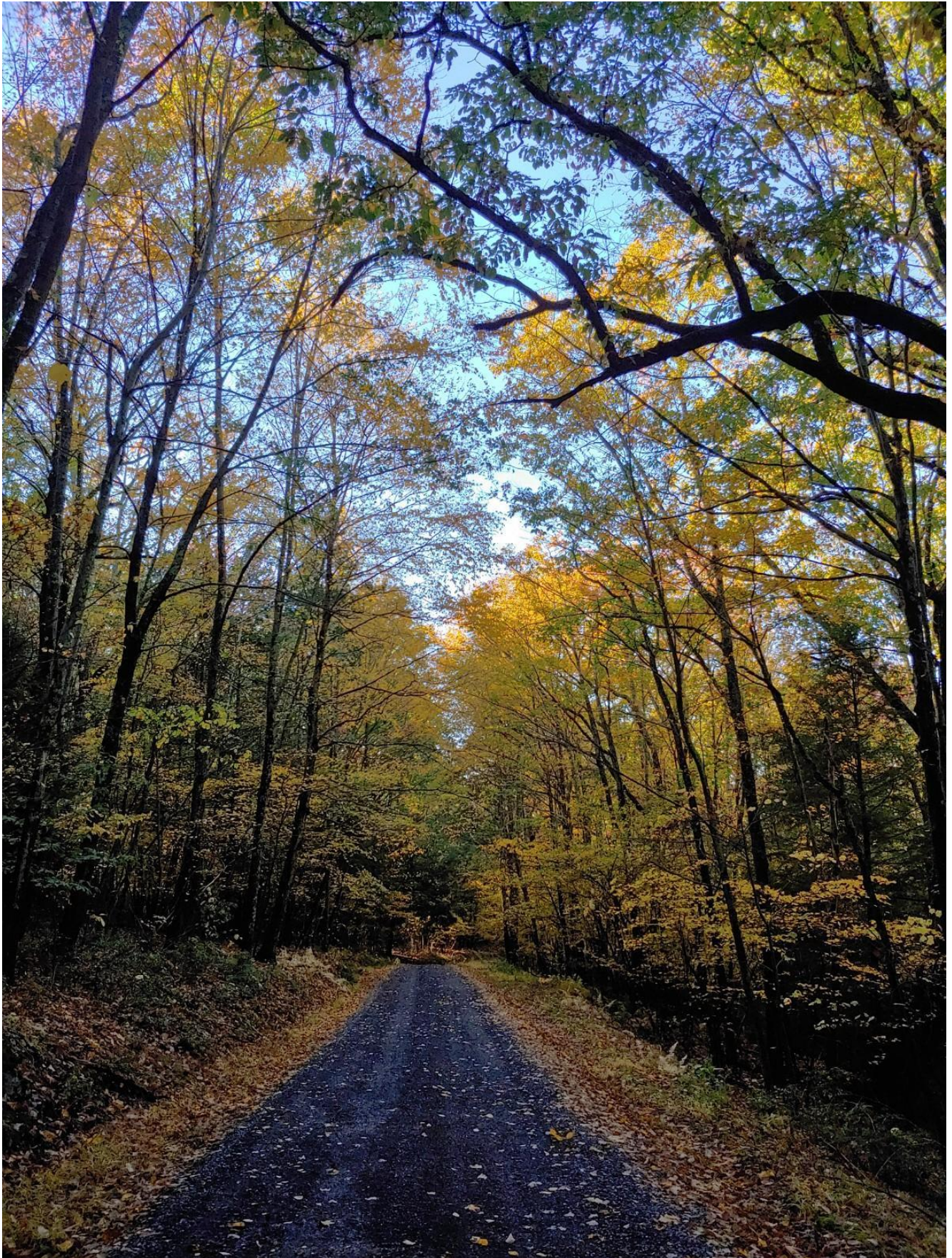
Beautiful colors of the season, Laurel Hill State Park. (photo by C. Wentzel)



The Cambria County service forester (Gallitzin State Forest) observed nice, peak color for most areas within the district. Oaks are still mainly green, but red and sugar maple have fully turned, along with walnuts, redbud, cherry, and birch. Don't delay your visit as many leaves are beginning to fall. A trip to the Rager Mountain Division is recommended for viewing awesome fall color of the northern hardwoods in the area. Parking can be found off Dishong Mountain Road south of Route 22.

Even the forest floor (Blue Hole Division, Forbes State Forest) is delightful. (photo by D. Stiffler)

Central and Southcentral Regions



Fall colors are still bursting in Bald Eagle State Forest. (photo by E. Elliott)

The Mifflin/Snyder/Union County service forester (Bald Eagle State Forest) reported full fall foliage color, although many oaks remain green and many birch, maple, walnut and cherry are quickly shedding their leaves. Travel to one of the numerous Bald Eagle State Forest vistas for a better view. Foresters observed fading fall color in the Seven Mountains area, but a new flush of nice color from oak species. Leaves are dropping from trees that have been showing great beauty over the past few weeks. Good color remains, but won't last long.

The Perry/Juniata County service forester (Tuscarora State Forest District) reports widespread, beautiful peak color. Brilliant maples, hickories, and birches adorn a backdrop of green oaks on many mountainsides within the district. Color in the state forest should peak at the end of this forecasting week and possibly extend into the next. A trip to Shade, Tuscarora, or Blacklog Mountain is recommended for excellent viewing this week. Consider a picnic at the Karl Guss Picnic Area in western Juniata County to observe some spectacular fall scenery.



Gorgeous autumn color from Route 17 near Millerstown. (photo by L. Book)

In Weiser State Forest District, observers in Lebanon and Dauphin counties reported significant progress of foliage this week, with widespread color throughout the area. Below average temperatures should push foliage to peak next week. Excellent color in the area spans Powells, Stony, Clarks, and Fishing Creek valleys. Beautiful color has also been reported at Memorial Lake State Park near Fort Indiantown Gap. For a unique seasonal viewing opportunity, consider visiting the Second Mountain Hawk Watch to see the beautiful autumn color and migrating raptors.

In the northeastern portion of the forest district (Schuylkill and Carbon counties), peak conditions should arrive by the end of this forecasting week. Bright fall color can be found at Tuscarora State Park and throughout the region surrounding Jim Thorpe, a popular fall foliage tourism destination.



In Buchanan State Forest (Franklin, Fulton, Bedford counties), fall foliage will likely peak toward the end of the forecasting week. Cold temperatures expected this weekend will push a rapid change.

Rothrock State Forest continues at peak fall color, currently, but could begin fading by the middle of next week. Beautiful color remains on maples, birches, and hickories. Oak species are just beginning to show some bright hues, adding yellow, russet, and copper. A trip to the Trough Creek Division or Alan Seeger Natural Area is recommended to observe some truly gorgeous fall scenery this weekend.

Jerry Road, Buchanan State Forest (photo by B. Wilford)



Beautiful color along Stone Creek Road near Alan Seeger Natural Area. (photo by J. Thompson)

In Michaux State Forest (Adams, Franklin, Cumberland counties) fall foliage enthusiasts can expect nice color at higher elevations with norther hardwoods at or near peak. Excellent fall color can be found in the areas of Kings Gap Environmental Center and Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Northeastern Region

Foresters in Delaware State Forest (Pike and Monroe counties) reported recent breezy weather and rain blew down many birch and some red maple leaves, but most of the forest is currently at peak color. Colorful variations of yellow can be seen in hickories and sugar maples. Some sugar maples are also adding a warm orange color to the landscape. Witch hazels are contributing bright yellow to the forest understory while blueberry and huckleberry bushes are adding shades of red. Scarlet and white oaks have begun to change and some are at peak now, adding their own variations of red to the forest. The best areas to view peak fall foliage this week will be anywhere in Pike and northern Monroe county.



Warm fall color at Egypt Meadow, Delaware State Forest. (photo by J. Maza)

Foresters in Pinchot State Forest reported fading conditions in Susquehanna and northern Wayne counties. In Lackawanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, and southern Wayne counties, foliage is still peaking or just beginning to peak. Species in full color are oaks, sassafras, red maples, birches, aspen, and black gum. Due to the dry conditions in these areas, colors are brighter than they have been in years. Areas recommended for excellent fall foliage viewing include the Brownell Reservoir, Moosic and Montage mountains, and Seven Tubs (Pinchot State Forest).

Southeastern Region

Foresters in William Penn State Forest District reported some progress in fall foliage throughout the area this week. The best color in the district can be found in Northampton, Berks, and Lehigh counties. Nice fall colors adorn the areas near French Creek State Park and the Cornwall Tract (William Penn State Forest). A strong push of color is expected with cold nights in the forecast over the weekend.