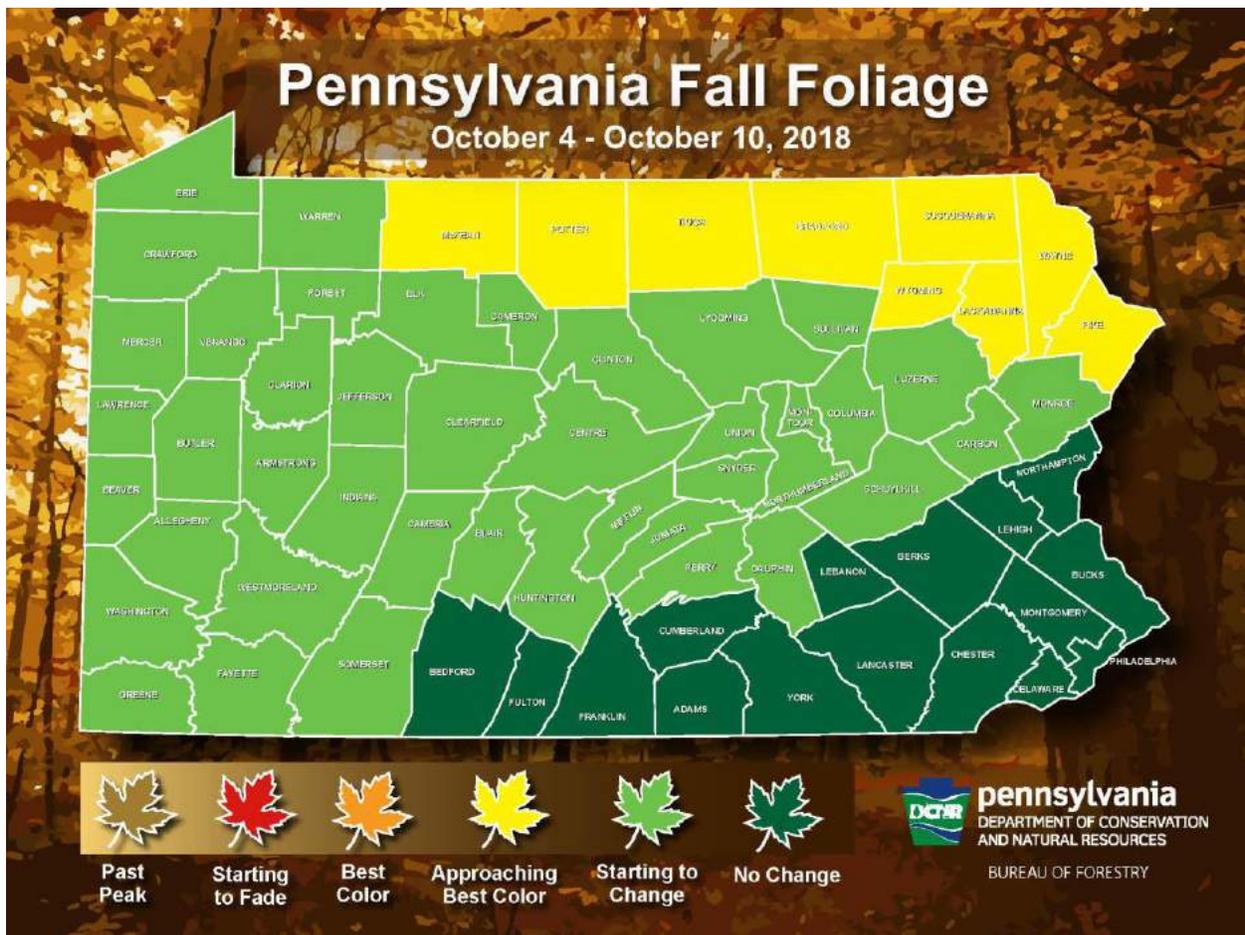


**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry**

**PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT
October 4 – October 10, 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 slowed the foliage transition throughout the commonwealth. Foresters in northern and southwestern Pennsylvania are reporting localized defoliations of some maples, cherries, and oaks due to heavy wind, rain, and fungi. Most foliage in southern Pennsylvania is unchanged from last week, but most of the state's forests are showing signs of the season.

Northeastern counties continue to boast the best color in the state, however substantial foliage progress has been noted from Mercer eastward through Clearfield counties. Long-range weather forecasts call for a considerable cooldown in roughly one week, which should accelerate the foliar transition throughout the majority of Pennsylvania. With most of the state's forests still various shades of green, it is clear the best of fall foliage season is yet to come!

Northwest Region

Erie, Crawford, and Warren counties in Cornplanter Forest District remain mostly unchanged from last week. The district forester reports a "slow start" to the season but expects foliage changes to accelerate with the cooler nightly temperatures in the forecast.



Some areas in Forest County are beginning to brighten. (photo by C. Stelter)

Northcentral Region

Foresters report substantial changes in non-oak species in Susquehannock and Tioga State forests, expecting peak season in about a week. Maple anthracnose has defoliated some areas, while oak-dominated ridges have yet to change. In Elk, Sproul, and Tiadaghton State forests, forestry staff have noted early changes in sumac, aspen, and birches.

Northeastern Region

Foresters have reported strong color progression in Loyalsock, Pinchot, and Delaware State forests. These areas continue to show some of the best color in the state. Red maple, black gum, and sassafras are contributing good fall color. Sugar maple continues to change to yellow and orange and should be peaking over the weekend. Other notable species include dogwood, scrub oak, sumac, and birches.



Vibrant black gum (photo by R. Conrad)

In Pike and Monroe counties, forestry staff noted that sassafras continues to change into a variety of red and orange and hickories have transitioned to yellow and bronze. Foresters predict peak color change this week will be near swamps and low, wet areas. Species such as red maple, birch, blueberry, and other shrubs will be showing vibrant colors in these areas. Some good places to view the changes will be along Route 402, Lake Minisink, or Little Mud Pond.

Autumn-themed events in the area this weekend include the Harvest Festival at the Pocono Environmental Education Center and Harvest and Heritage Days in Honesdale. To see fall color on regional trails, foresters recommend:

- **Salt Springs State Park- Falls Trail & Upper Woods Trail**
- **Lackawanna State Park- Lee Hill Trail**
- **Choke Creek Falls section of Pinchot Trail – Thornhurst Tract, Pinchot State Forest**
- **Ricketts Glen State Park – Falls Trail & Fire Tower Trail**

West-central and Southwestern Regions

Foresters report noteworthy foliage changes in Clear Creek State Forest District, particularly in the northern half of the area (Mercer, Venango, Clarion, and Jefferson counties). Black walnuts are pale-yellow, and Virginia creeper, staghorn sumac, and red maples are contributing assorted shades of red to the forest.

Forbes State Forest staff have reported foliage color to be somewhat muted due to excessive rainfall; with sassafras, maples, and birches slightly tinged and changing slowly in the Laurel Mountain area. Recent storms have stripped a considerable amount of leaves. Peak foliage usually occurs this week, but colors are not progressing as quickly. Bureau field staff predict a delay in achieving peak foliage for the area.

Central Region

Foresters in Gallitzin State Forest report some spotty color from beeches and red maples, however to the north; Bureau of Forestry staff in Moshannon State Forest documented bright color in the Clearfield County region, particularly near Penfield. Species of note in the area include red maple, sassafras, and black gum.



Colorful red maple and sassafras, Penfield area (photo by R. Conrad)

Bald Eagle, Rothrock, and Tuscarora State Forest (Centre, Union, Snyder, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, and Clinton counties) staff have reported few changes overall, but black gum, Virginia creeper, black walnut, and dogwoods are just starting to turn crimson-red. In eastern Weiser State Forest (Schuylkill and Carbon counties), foresters have noted many more species providing color, with black birch (bright yellow) and black gum (unique orange) continuing to add color to the landscape. Foresters advise to look for a significant increase in red maple and red oak color, with lowland areas displaying the greatest amount of color change, presently. A walk or bike ride along the Lehigh River Gorge is recommended for viewing foliage.



Buchanan State Forest foliage is still green. (photo by K. Ewan)

Southcentral and Southeastern Region

Foresters in Buchanan, Michaux, and William Penn State Forest districts report no significant fall foliage observations.