

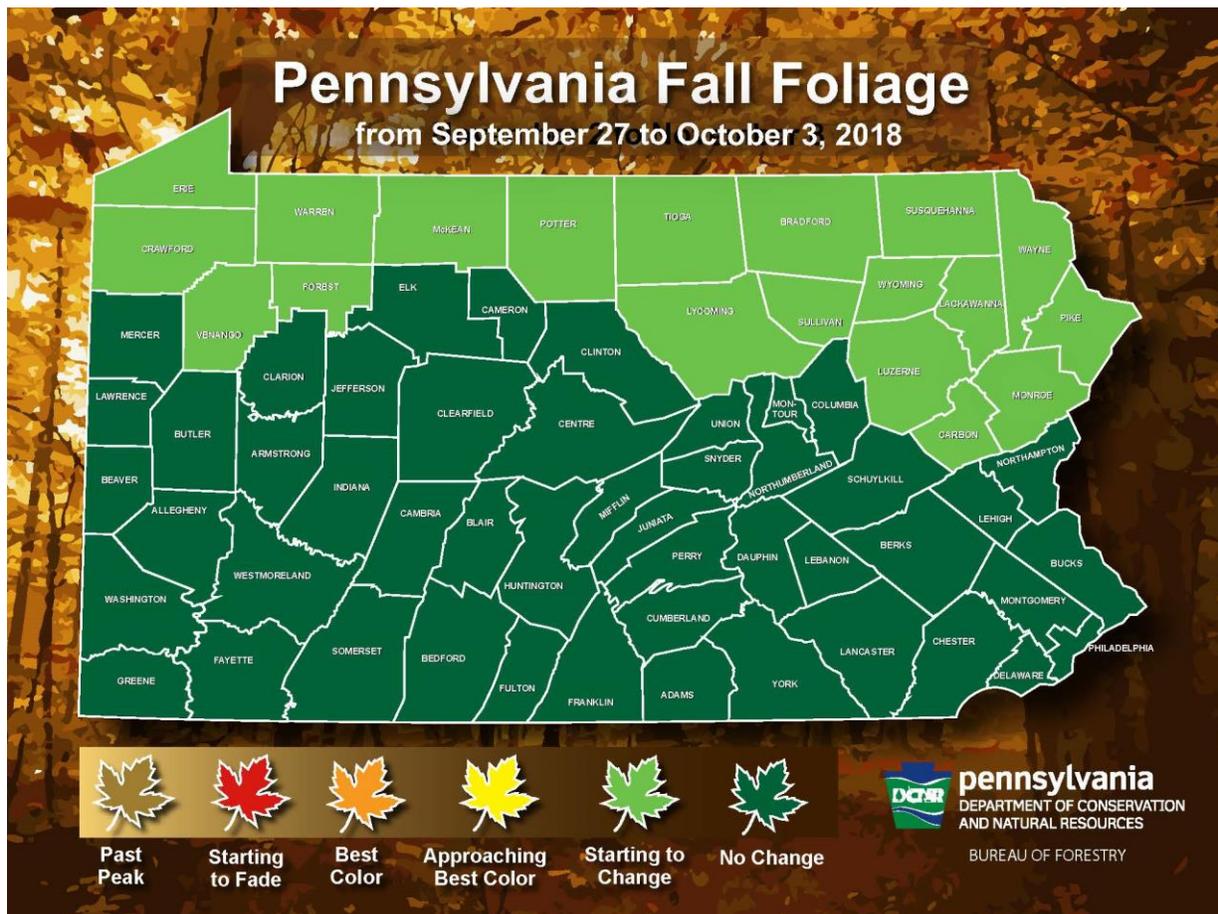
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

September 27 – October 3, 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

The deep-green of Pennsylvania's foliage is largely unchanged throughout the state. However, foresters have noted some localized areas of early leaf drop on maple, cherry, and oak species due to the excessively wet summer and related outbreaks of fungi. Despite these setbacks, commonwealth forests are still well-stocked with leaves of over 100 tree, shrub, and vine species. With cooler, seasonal temperatures in the forecast, Penn's Woods remain poised to deliver some great fall color!

Northwest Region

Erie, Crawford, and Warren counties in Cornplanter Forest District are showing signs of the season, with a few early-changers like staghorn sumac and dogwood showing some color. Cooler temperatures have started a slight but noticeable color change in Venango and Forest counties, and the expected cold front should push the process forward in time for the area's two upcoming festivals (below).

- Autumn Leaf Festival <https://www.clarionpa.com/events/autumn-leaf-festival/>
- Apple Festival <https://www.franklinapplefest.com/>



Staghorn sumac (photo by C. Stelter)

Northcentral Region

Foresters report few changes in Elk and Cameron counties (Elk State Forest), while reports for McKean and Potter counties (Susquehannock State Forest) are noting early leaf drop for maples, ash, and cherry. Tioga State Forest District personnel report some yellowing on white ashes.

West-central and Southwestern Regions

Foresters report few noteworthy foliage changes in Clear Creek and Forbes State forests, with the exception being the Mt. Davis area in Somerset County where black gums have already peaked, and some trees have prematurely dropped leaves due to excessive rainfall and high winds. The high elevation of Mt. Davis allows leaf color to develop sooner than other areas of Forbes State Forest District. Peak foliage at Mt. Davis will likely be by the end of this week through the following week. The best places to view the fall color at Mt. Davis include the High Point observation tower and the High Point Lake overlook, both located off South Wolf Rock Road.

Central and Southcentral Regions

Foresters in Moshannon, Sproul, Bald Eagle, Tiadaghton, Gallitzin, Rothrock, Tuscarora, Buchanan, and Weiser State Forest districts report no significant fall foliage observations, with an exception in the eastern Weiser region (Carbon County), where staghorn sumacs and birches are displaying bright color.

Southeastern Region

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

Northeastern Region

Foresters have reported significant changes in Loyalsock, Pinchot, and Delaware State forests. These areas are likely displaying the best color in the state, currently. Black gum trees are bright red in the mid-story, while trailside species such as staghorn sumac transition into some of the deepest red color to be seen this fall. A few black birches and aspens have begun to add some showy yellow to the scene. Red maple and sassafras are adding some red, while a few hickories, ashes, and sugar maples are turning yellow. Wildflowers such as goldenrod and New England aster continue to bloom.



Fall wildflowers are currently blooming in northeastern Pa. (photo by C. Wentzel)