Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE
REPORT November 8 – November 14, 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**

Despite repetitive rain and wind events throughout the commonwealth, nice color remains in parts of the state. The most vibrant foliage currently is attributed to the oak/beech and oak/hickory community peaks evident in the southern portion of the Pennsylvanian Wilds (Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming counties) extending through the spine of the Appalachians through Bald Eagle, Rothrock, Tuscarora, and Buchanan State forests. Excellent color also remains on maples, hickories, and sassafras from Bucks County projecting southwest toward Adams/Franklin County and including most points south/southeast of this line. Bright foliage in this region will likely be short-lived, but oak species throughout the state should present pleasant upper-canopy viewing for at least another week. Much of the northern half of the state has experienced significant leaf-drop, signifying the close of fall foliage season.

**Northwestern Region**

The Cornplanter State Forest district forester reports many trees in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania have lost or are losing their leaves, as the fall foliage season ends. There is still a scattering of bright gold and burnt orange from oaks and late maples providing some last glimpses of fall, but the transition into early winter is apparent. Shorter days and predicted snow for this week will hasten the remaining color changes. Despite the arrival of late fall, opportunities to enjoy a fall woods walk or a romp in a big pile of leaves are still plentiful in northwest Pa., at least for another week.

**West-central Region**

Clear Creek and Gallitzin State Forest staff report past peak conditions and most maple and birch leaves have dropped in the region. Oaks in the area have turned many shades from red to orange, and some are surprisingly still green.

**Southwestern Region**

Forbes State Forest staff report recent winds and cool temperatures have caused significant leaf-drop across the Laurel Highlands and much of southwestern Pennsylvania. Visitors to Chestnut and Laurel ridges will find most trees leafless, except some oaks, yellow poplar, and beech; displaying shades of yellow, brown, rust, and gold. There are still excellent opportunities for fall foliage viewing in southwestern Pennsylvania, but visitors should focus on the lower elevations of Westmoreland, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Allegheny counties for fall’s best remaining colors. Point, Hillman, and Ryerson Station State parks will offer slightly past peak viewing opportunities this week. Hickory and yellow poplar are displaying particularly vibrant golden yellows throughout this area.

**Northcentral Region**

Isolated forest patches of mixed oak and beech are the last remnants of fall color in the region.

**Northeastern Region**

Foresters in Pinchot and Delaware State forests report spotty conditions in the southern Pocono region with some still-colorful oak, beech, and hickory species. There are a few areas offering the last bit of good fall color along Route 390 near Promised Land State Park.
Central Region

Bureau of Forestry staff in Elk, Sproul, and Tiadaghton State forests report some good color in the mixed-oak community and some unpredictably unchanged, green canopies. Color should hang on in this area for at least another week.

Bald Eagle State Forest colors are starting to fade overall; however, some oak-dominated forests near Howard and along the ridgetops in the district are displaying some nice scarlet to orange backdrops. A drive along Treaster Valley/Hunter Road from Siglerville toward Glen Iron is recommended.

Tuscarora State Forest staff observed surprising green foliage on oaks in a sizable portion of the district. Maples, birches, and cherry species have essentially all dropped their leaves. Oaks that have changed are exhibiting colors from yellow to deep burgundy. A trip to the red oak forests surrounding Colonel Denning State Park is recommended for foliage viewing.
Foresters in Rothrock State Forest report fading foliage in the district, with pleasant splashes of color from red and white oaks in mature forests. Nice color remains along Route 994 near the town of Eagle Foundry west toward Raystown Lake.

Vivid red oak, Rothrock State Forest (photo by R. Reed)
The Moshannon State Forest service forester reports fading conditions in the district but some isolated areas with fair foliage viewing opportunities. Oaks, beech, and witch hazels are still adding color to the forest, but many leaves have already fallen.

*Road-side color, Moshannon State Forest (photo by R. Conrad)*

**East-central Region**
Weiser State Forest is beginning to fade but fair to good color remains in the southern part of the district, where maples, sassafras, and hickories are still quite nice.

*Beautiful forest edge, Haldeman Tract, Weiser State Forest. (photo by A. Brought)*
Southcentral Region
Buchanan State Forest staff report the district’s fall foliage is past prime now, which was last weekend. Most trees have dropped their leaves, but oaks continue to add pleasant fall shades.

Southeastern Region
Foresters in Michaux State Forest report that most maples and birches have dropped their leaves, but hickories and oaks are still displaying good color in many areas.

Staff in William Penn State Forest report fading foliage in the northern part of the district, but still peak foliage conditions to the southeast from Bucks through Lancaster counties. Maples, sassafras, beech, and oaks are still displaying vivid colors.