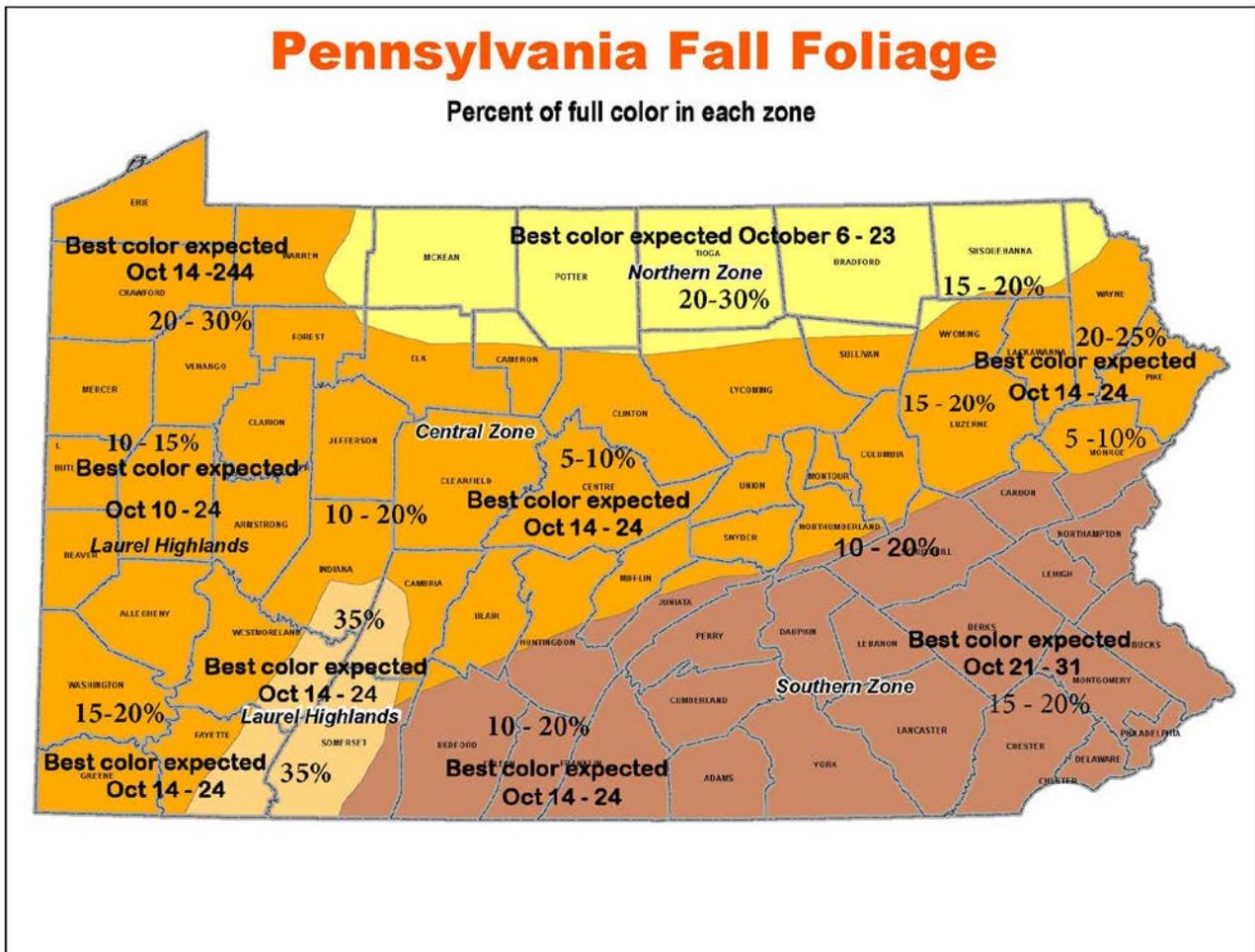


Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT
October 6 – October 12, 2016



Week three is here and the explosion of color is drawing closer. Looking at reports from across the stat the old adage of “good things come to those who wait” certainly applies. We want so badly for the colors of autumn to arrive and they will, but in their own time.

The leaves are indeed starting to turn more though. Most species are beginning to turn off the green chlorophyll and as a result the green is getting lighter. Along the higher elevations there are already plenty of trees that are turning, in particular the maples with everything from yellows through all of the oranges into the deep reds although many maples are still green. Black walnut continues to scatter gold leaflets with the breezes, and black gum is turning to deep reds and purples. Ash is gaining its’ muted purple which will soon be lost from our forests as a result an invasive species, the emerald ash borer. It has been ravaging ash trees across the commonwealth but hopefully we will be able to restore this stately tree in the future. All of the sumacs are scarlet and the hickories are turning bright gold. With all of this, there is still a sea of green, and the oaks haven’t quite started yet.

There are lots of autumn colors to see but not yet the grand panoramas from our

memory. As we wait for this, we can drive the areas of higher elevations and along country roads that allow for slower speeds and the time to pull off and admire the palette.



Losey Vista, Potter County

NORTHERN ZONE

Signs of fall are starting to quickly show up here in Tioga State Forest. Along with the tree species listed last week, more species have started the process changing color. Black cherry, white ash, birch species, striped maple, and some sugar maple have already turned yellow. Some sugar maples have become a brilliant hue of yellow and are a sight to see. The red maples are showing beautiful reds throughout the forest. Most of the northern hardwoods stands are getting close to full color. The oak stands will most likely remain green until mid to late October.

The lookouts along the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area are some of the best places to view at the moment. The eastern portion of our forest near the town of Arnot, and the Armenia Mountain area appear to be changing quicker than anywhere else in the area. Lambs Look out on Armenia Mountain would be a choice location for a fall viewing stop. Also, a drive across Landrus Road from Morris to Arnot would be of interest at this time. State Route 6 from Wellsboro, heading east is a colorful sight to see right now as well.



Susquehannock State Forest Office, Route 6 near Denton Hill

CENTRAL ZONE

The central region at the Pocono Mountains is starting to show some good fall foliage colors. The areas with northern hardwoods should be getting close to peak colors. Sassafras, sugar maple, red maple, birch, ash, cherry; and other vines, trees and shrubs are showing some significant color changes. The oak and hickory forest types still have a couple weeks till they hit their peak. A good place to view the foliage this week is around Tobyhanna State Park off of Route 423. The trees around the lake will be starting to show good colors with 90% of the leaves remaining on the trees.

In the very middle of the state, red maple, black gum and sumacs are the star performers at this time. Routes 144 and Yost Ridge Road south, Decker Valley Road and Crowfield Roads in Centre County are worth the effort to see autumn colors coming on.



Penn Lake at the foot of Seven Mountains

Most of the color is still concentrated on our roadside corridors and individual trees in

landscape so just about everywhere you travel in northwest Pennsylvania you will start to see the colors of autumn. Throughout the landscape, there are splashes of color mixed in with the green hillsides. Even the green foliage doesn't seem quite so distinct, as that color is being slowly replaced by the vivid reds, yellows, oranges and browns of fall. The maples, both red and sugar are still among the most colorful species in northwestern Pennsylvania, but aspen, hickory and birch are adding their warm yellow colors to the overall color of the landscape. Understory or shrub species, like sumac and dogwood, are also beginning to show their bright red and orange coloration.

Routes 99 and 220 just east of the Allegheny Front both have some very colorful spots.



Decker Valley Road, Centre County

LAUREL HIGHLANDS

This area in southwest PA is crossed by Route 30 and 31, Interstate 40, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. From these roads a great deal of the Laurel Highlands can be accessed.

Mt. Davis (southern Somerset County)

Red and sugar maples and black gums are changing to their reds and purples, and the ferns are beginning to yellow more noticeably. The sassafras trees have fruited and the witch hazel have bloomed.

Laurel Mountain (Laurel Ridge – Westmoreland & Somerset Counties)

The colors are progressing slowly. The black gums are almost at their peak along Laurel Summit Road, showing off their red and purple hues. Ferns are yellowing throughout most of the forest, especially in the bog. Birches are turning yellow, while a few maples are patchy with color, but still mostly green.

Pondfield (Chestnut Ridge –Fayette County; Greene, Washington Counties)

Area is slightly changing, still mostly green with patchy yellows and oranges scattered throughout the forest. It's been very windy the past few days, which likely has allowed some of the leaves to drop even faster. Poplar, cherry, maples are mostly still green, while some trees have patches of yellow and/or red/orange. Lots of green waiting turn.



Early white oak

Hickory

SOUTHERN REGION

This is the area south and east of a line from just south of the Poconos to the Laurel Highlands.

The William Penn Forest District, in particular, Northampton and Lehigh counties, is still very green. The only noticeable foliage change has taken place on the smaller Maple and Birch trees at the very northern end of the district along the ridges of the Blue Mountain Range. SR309 and Mountail Road are recommended. Another week or two to really make their presence felt.

The areas west of the Susquehanna River report that colors are still spotty but there are some very colorful spots in the areas of higher elevations such as the PA Turnpike and Route 30 in Fulton and Bedford counties. Route 81 east of the Susquehanna also has some interesting areas of color.



White ash