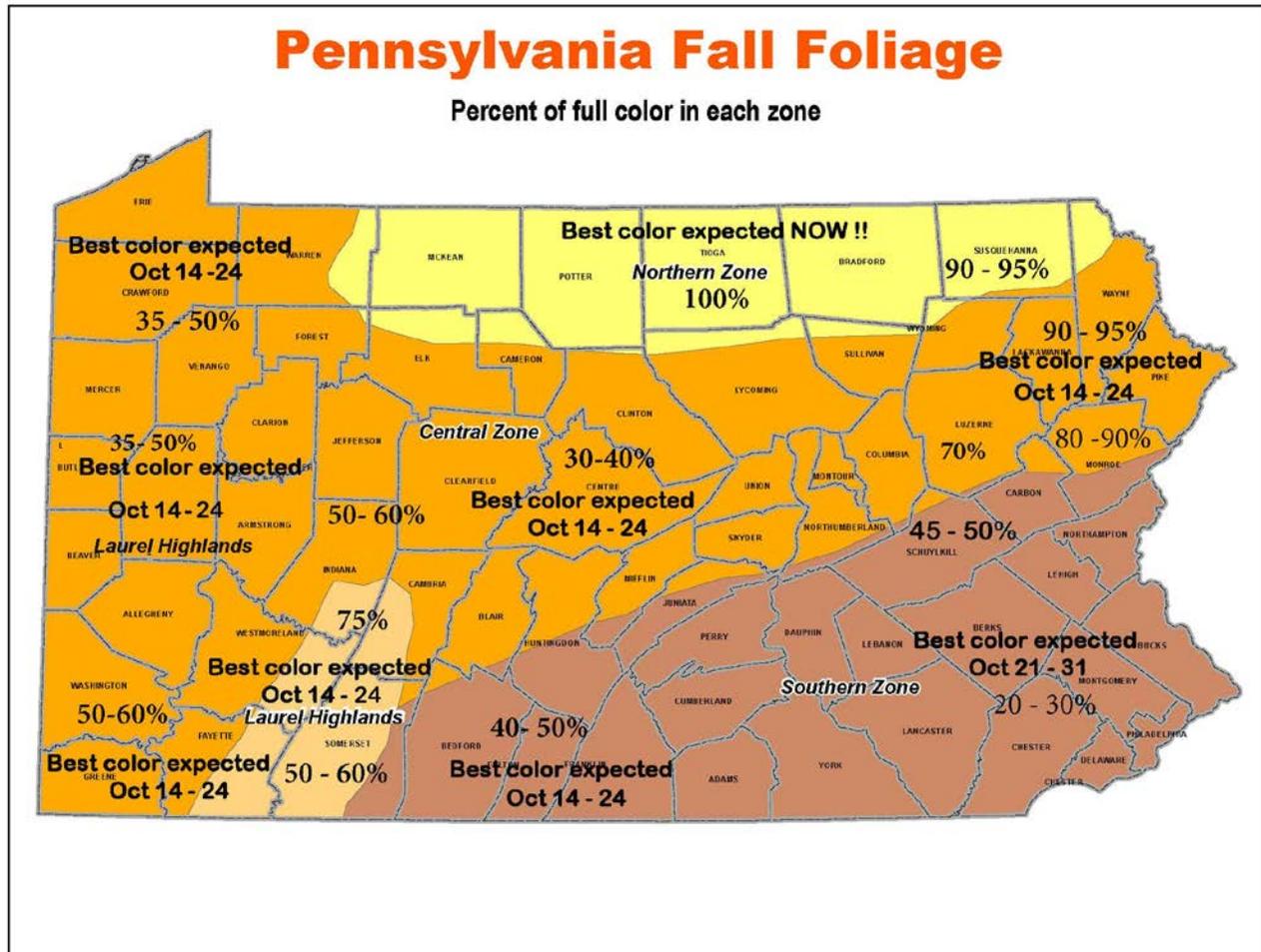


Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA WEEKLY FALL FOLIAGE REPORT  
October 13 - 19, 2016



There is a great deal of variation out there, but truth be told, there usually is. What we remember is that one perfect scene from our past that personifies for us the perfect autumn scene. There are many such scenes out there this week. All one has to do is to go out and find it. There are lots of road trips possible and hiking and biking trails are encouraged. In autumns like this are some of the most dramatic examples of autumn colors but they are not panoramas so they are missed. The northern zone is full blown autumn, with the Poconos not too far behind. Throughout the state though there are beautiful colors to see. Drive safely.

**NORTHERN REGION**, (Northern Wayne County and all of Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga, Potter and McKean Counties)

The Northern Zone is full blown autumn colors and it is "gorgeous". Routes 44 and Historic Route 6 are recommended. There are lots of side roads and state forest roads to tool along on.

## CENTRAL REGION,

A funnel-shaped band with its narrow end in southern Wayne and Pike Counties. It stretches across the central third of Pennsylvania to Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties. This region widens to the northwest to include Erie and Warren Counties.

### **Indiana, Cambria and Blair counties.**

Red maple and sugar maple are showing good color with tulip poplar and cucumber magnolia both starting to turn brilliant yellow.

The travel routes to see foliage displays are;

State Route 56 approximately 7 mile east of Windber along the Allegheny front

State Route 22 approximately 4 miles west of Ebensburg along Dishong Mountain

State Route 403 approximately 2 mile west of Johnstown traveling through Conemaugh Gap

### **Poconos**

Trees are changing colors fast and here are the colors that are being expressed; Red Oak is Red/Orange, White Oak is a Burgundy Red, Chestnut Oak is Bright Orange, Tulip Poplar is Pale Yellow, and Aspen is showing Bright Yellow.

Here are some recommended places to visit;

- Pine Hill Vista at the Thornhurst tract in the Pinchot Forest District.
- Tillbury Knob at the southern section of the Harvey's Creek Tract in Pinchot Forest District. Near West Nanticoke.
- The Seven Tubs Natural Area in the Pinchot Forest District off RT. 115 in Plains Township.
- Take a hike on the trails at Ricketts Glen or Nescopeck State Park.
- Take a paddle on the lakes at Lackawanna, Pompton, or Frances Slocum State Park.
- Looking for a fall river trip? Try the Delaware from Equinunk to Damascus, or the Susquehanna River from the town of Susquehanna to Great Bend.

Sproul SF and Clinton County have the Sassafras, Black gum and red maple showing good colors. Pa. Route 144 from Snow Shoe to Renovo and Hyner View SP are recommended places to go.

## SOUTHERN REGION

The area south and east of a line through southern Monroe, Dauphin, Bedford and southeastern Somerset Counties is included in the southern region.

In the eastern part of the Southern Zone, the trees from the base of the Blue Mountain north are changing colors and in some locales, quite dramatically. From the southern base of the Blue Mountain, north, there are lots of colors. The elevation rise is significant and the colors are worth going to see. Check out the state forest roads. They are low speed and you are right there in the foliage. In the far east end, Mountain road along the base of the Blue Mountain is good. The turnpike west from the Susquehanna River and Route 81 North from the Susquehanna River are well worth the drive. Swap driving duties out and back so the driver can concentrate on the road. Route 309 north from Allentown will be worth the drive. Any of the biking and hiking trails this weekend will be good. Far western areas will start on rain mid Sunday, check the times, but the rest of the state has both days to be out biking and hiking. Take your camera

## LAUREL HIGHLANDS

Peak color has been delayed due to drought-like conditions the past several weeks; peak color is expected this weekend thru next weekend for the Laurel Mountain and Mt. Davis areas of Forbes State Forest.

### **Mt. Davis - southern Somerset County**

This area is peaking and will continue to do so throughout this week. The black gums and maples are vibrant reds, oranges, and purples.

The best way to see the foliage is by visiting the observation tower at the High Point, to get a panoramic view of the surrounding hills and valleys.

### **Laurel Mountain and Laurel Ridge – Westmoreland & Somerset Counties**

The vibrant red and purple black gums at their peak and the sugar and red maples are turning their bright reds and oranges. Birches are yellowing as well.

The best locations to see the spectacular colors are by doing a scenic drive along Laurel Summit Road/Linn Run Road OR if you're more adventurous, doing a hike along Wolf Rocks Trail or Beam Rocks Trail.

### **Pondfield, Chestnut Ridge – Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties**

Area is being to change more progressively but is nowhere near peak. The black gums are beginning to turn, and will likely peak by the end of this week. There are some maples that are patchy, beginning to turn as well. Although there is still some green, it is easy to tell that the forest is going to explode with color within the next week or week and a half.