

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

The autumn colors of the North Central counties of the state are mostly gone though there are many oaks still in fall colors.

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.)

The central region of the Pocono Mountains is past its peak for fall foliage, but some areas are still showing a broad array of colors. Many of the trees lost their leaves last weekend from the strong winds and rain. Some of the oaks are still green farther to the south in Pike and Monroe counties, but will be changing color very soon. A good place to view the foliage this week is Kunkletown road from Saylorsburg to Little Gap.



Swiftwater Photo by Matt Hazen PaDCNR



Turkey Hill Road Photo by Dan Dermotta PaDCNR

The Bald Eagle, Rothrock and Sproul State Forests stretch across central Pennsylvania from the forks of the Susquehanna River at Northumberland west to the ridge and valley topography around State College and northwest to the forested plateau in Renovo. This oak-hardwood forest is a rich area for autumn colors. The peak is past for the bright colors of the maples but with the hard frost that they had during the past week, the oaks may very well provide a second color blast. Route 144 from Snowshoe to Renovo should be colorful.

Peak color is past in the Laurel Mountain and Mt. Davis areas of Forbes State Forest. The Pondfield area is in a weird transitional stage, where there is still green, but much of the foliage has fallen due to rain/wind. I would say that the Pondfield area is at peak now, but will likely be past after the weekend.

Mt. Davis (Negro Mountain – southern Somerset County) area is past peak.



Hickory Flats Laurel Summit Road Signs Photo credit Rachel Mahoney

Chestnut Ridge

Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties Area are at their peak. The rain and winds also swept through these counties last week and took much of the colorful foliage with them. The oaks are still holding their green color but the hard frost should force the move to fall coloration.

Most of the hillsides in northwest Pennsylvania have transitioned from the vibrant yellow, red, and oranges colors to deeper gold, brown and chestnut colors. Recent rains have caused some of the leaves to fall but there is still much color to be seen throughout the region. Many of the oaks are finally displaying their colors and visitors to the area can expect to see color for at least another week.

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.)



Yellow Poplar along the rich river-bottom soils of the Southern Region

There is still a lot of color in areas of the Southern Region. Yellow poplar, sassafras, blackgum, and even some of the maples are retaining their leaves and color. Roads that are along the southern side of the Blue Mountain ridge are a great place to go. The oaks are just getting started in their fall coloration so we don't know whether the colors will be carotenoid yellows, anthocyanin reds or the brown and tans of tannin.

Southeast Pennsylvania and the William Penn State Forest is still building its' colors and this may be the best time to see them. There was recently a hard frost and this will very likely push the oaks and other color holdouts to drop the chlorophyll and show their colors. Let's hope.