



West Virginia Division of Forestry
www.wvforestry.com
Joe Manchin III, Governor
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Contact: Leslie Fitzwater, Public Information Specialist (304) 558-2003 ext. 342,
Leslie.C.Fitzwater@wv.gov

Leaves Changing Quickly in West Virginia's High Country **Top spots to visit this weekend include Spruce Knob and Elkins**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State foresters report that leaves are rapidly taking on fall hues, especially in the state's areas of higher elevation. Pendleton County's leaves range from 45 to 80 percent peak at higher altitudes, while leaves in the county's low-lying areas range from 10 to 30 percent peak. Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia, is recommended as one of the top spots to visit this weekend.

Foliage in Pocahontas, Webster and Randolph counties is reported to be at 60 percent peak. Forester Shon Butler said that visitors to the annual Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins should have a colorful experience.

"The state's northern hardwoods, including maple, birch, beech and ash have beautiful color right now," Butler said. "Higher elevations have more advanced color, but overall I'm seeing foliage at 60 percent peak in Randolph County." To see good fall color, Butler recommends a drive along U.S. Route 250 from Huttonsville to Durbin and across Cheat Mountain.

Foresters strongly recommend a drive along Pocahontas County's Highland Scenic Highway, where suggested points of interest include Cranberry Glades and Richwood.

Yellow poplars and maples are offering excellent color at Kumbrabow State Forest in Webster County and along U.S. Route 72 through Canaan Valley in Tucker County. Peters Mountain in Monroe County is reported to be at 40 percent peak.

For more information about fall foliage, visit the Division of Forestry's Web site at www.wvforestry.com.

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Regional Offices
Farmington (304) 825-6983
Beckley (304) 256-6775
Milton (304) 743-6186