



# Northeast GA Fall Leaf Report

Date: October 4, 2023

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Please describe the colors of each species of understory and overstory trees. Summarize the coloration in the mountains at higher and lower elevations, and in the river corridors. Are any species still green? What species have peaked? Which species are fading?

While it is early in the season, many of the understory trees are exhibiting fair to moderate color. Sourwood is starting to take on a bright red coloration, with many remaining that have yet to begin the color transition. Dogwoods have developed a deep burgundy tone with the majority having significant coloration present. Black gum trees are exhibiting some vibrant red tones with the majority having begun the color transition. The overstory coloration change is dominated by yellow poplar and birches, with best coloration in ravines and roadways above 1500 feet. Both are exhibiting bright yellow to gold coloration

### Consider these species in your descriptions:

Dogwood	green to deep burgundy	Birch	yellow
Yellow-poplar	yellow/gold/green	Sourwood	red/burgundy
Sumac	bright red/ green	Maple	mild yellow/ some deep red
Beech	green	Oak	primarily green
Blackgum	green/red	Sassafras	red/orange/green
Sweetgum	deep purple/ yellow/brown	Hickory	green
Redbud	green/yellow		

Estimate percentage of color change from green to date: 5 % above 3000'; 10 % below 3000'.

### Is a good season expected? Why? When is "peak" expected this year?

With temperatures holding around average and diminishing rain chances by this weekend, peak time below 3000' elevation should occur the last week of October and into early November.

Above 3000' we may see the beginning of peak by the last week of October based on the percentage of trees that are beginning to fade from full green.

### Describe any impact of rain, wind, drought or frost on leaf color this week and/or this season in general?

Cooler temperatures this coming weekend will both accelerate the early leaf color change and make it more enjoyable for viewers.

**Suggest a nice, scenic weekend drive for a good look at current fall color. Include specific information about highway numbers, historic markers, notable overlooks, weekend events, etc. Please attach photos/video from these locations or of representative fall color.**

Richard Russell Parkway displaying some reds of maples, sourwood and blackgum and yellows of yellow poplar and birch, with GA 180 east of US 129 starting to really show off the yellow poplars and birch. Overall, canopies are varying shades of green with pockets of color starting to develop.