

October 07, 2015

FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

This year's curiously gradual onset of Vermont's fall color continues but recent rains and lower temperatures have quickened it significantly.

The World's Best Foliage is happening all over Vermont.

Orleans County Forester, Jared Nunery, reports that much of northeastern Vermont is at about 75 percent of full color, adding that Route 14 is simply spectacular and back roads between Wolcott and Craftsbury offers another amazing display. This area should be at or near peak color by Columbus Day.

Similarly, colors in central Vermont are also moving past mid-stage, with the proportion of greens decreasing and beautiful mixes of yellow, orange, and reds emerging. Route 100 offers great viewing all along the Green Mountains. Brilliant mosaics of fall colors are bursting along the Worcester Range, with Waterbury Center and Stowe offering exceptional viewing opportunities.

Southern District Forester, Nate McKeen, reports that excellent color will be found from Bromley to Bradford, with general conditions developing at about 50-60 percent of change across Southern Vermont.

The Champlain, Taconic and lower Connecticut Valleys are generally at mid-stage with localized splashes of great color to be found throughout.

Large volumes of leaves are still on the trees, with 30-50 percent still green in many parts of Vermont. Assuming no heavy rains and wind, we anticipate a glorious finale of fall foliage spreading across Vermont over Columbus Day weekend and well into the middle of October.

BEST BETS (NORTH TO SOUTH):

- Northeast Kingdom Byway from St. Johnsbury to Newport and Jay.
- Route 242 from Montgomery to Jay
- Route 302 through Orange, Groton & Ryegate.
- The Gap Roads: Routes 4,17, 125 and 73 west from Route 100.
- Route 100 through south-central Vermont
- Route 9 from Brattleboro to Bennington.