

MAY

Allegheny Blackberry Rubus alleghensis (into June)
Arrow Arum Peltandra virginica (into June)
Blue Beard Lily Clintonia umbellulata (into June)
Bluets Houstonia spp (into August)
Bowman's Root Gillenia trifoliata (into July)
Butterfly Weed Asclepius tuberosa (into Aug.)
Catawba Rhododendron Rhododendron catawbiense (into June)
Clinton's Lily Clintonia borealis (into June)
False Lily of the Valley Maianthemum canadense (into June)
Flame Azalea Rhododendron calendulaceum (into June)
Fly Poison Amianthium muscaetoxicum (into July)
Galax Galax aphylla (into July)
Goats Beard Aruncas dioicus (into June)

Heart Leaf, Ginger Hexastylus shuttleworthi (into July)
Houstonia Houstonia purpurea (into July)
Meadow Rue Thalictrum revolutum (into July)
Mountain Laurel Kalmia latifolia (into June)
Mountain Lettuce Saxifraga micranthidifolia (into June)
Phlox Phlox carolina (into August at high elevations)
Poke Phytolacca americana
Queen Anne's Lace Daucus carota (into Sept.)
Sourgrass Oxalis europea (into September)
Sweet Shrub Calycanthus floridus (into June)
Sundrops Oenothera tetragyna (into Aug.)
Variagated Milkweed Asclepius variagata (into June)
Wild Hydrangea Hydrangia arborescens (into July)
Whorled Loostripe Lysimachea quadrifolia (into Aug.)
Wood Betony Pedicularis canadensis (into July)

JUNE

Beard Tongue Penstemon spp (into July)
Black Cohosh Cimicifuga racemosa (into July)
Brook Saxifrage Boykinia aconitifolia (into July)
Bull Thistle Carduus lanceolatus (till frost)
Bush Honeysuckle Diervilla sessifolia (into August)
Carolina Lily Liliun michauxii (into August)
Coreopsis Coreopsis pubescens (into August)
False Hellebore Veratrum viride (into August)
Fleabane Erigeron strigosus (until July)
Flowering Raspberry Rubus odoratus (into Aug.)
Hypericum Hypericum spp (into August)
Indian Pipe Monotropa uniflora (into Oct.)
Mountain Ash Sorbus americana (into July)
Mountain Lettuce Saxifraga micranthidifolia (into June)

Mullein Verbascum thapsus (into September)
Rattlesnake Plantain Goodyear pubescens (into August)
Rosebay Rhododendron maximum (into July)
Saxifrage Saxifraga michauxi (into Aug.)
Sourwood Oxydendrum arboreum (into July)
Spiderwort Tradescantia subaspera (into July)
Tall Meadow Rue Thalictrum polygamum (until July)
Turk's Cap Lily Liliun superbum (into August)
Wintergreen Gaultheria procumbens (into August)
Wild Bergamont Monarda fistulosa (into September)

JULY

BeeBalm Monarda spp. (into August)
Bellflower Campanula americana (into September)
Black-Eyed Susan Rudbeckia hirta
Common Milkweed Asclepius syriaca (into August)
Flowering Spurge Euphorbia corollata (into October)
Jewelweed Impatiens capensis (into Sept.)
Pale Jewel Weed Impatiens pallida (into Sept.)
Starry Campion Silene stellata (into Sept.)
St. John's Wort Hypericum prolificum (into Aug.)
Tall Coneflower Rudbeckia laciniata (into August)
Turtlehead Chelone cuthbertii (into September)
White Snakeroot Eupatorium rugosum (into October)

AUGUST

Angelica Angelica triquinata (into September)
Blazing Star Liatris spicata (into September)
Campion Silene ovata (into Sept.)
Cardinal Flower Lobelia cardinalis
Dodder Cuscuta spp. (into Sept.)
Ironweed Venonia noveboracensis (into September)
Joe-Pye Weed Eupatorium purpureum (into September)
Obedient Plant Dracocephalum virginianum (into September)
Rabbit Tobacco Gnaphalium obtusifolium (into October)
Sneezeweed Helenium autumnale (into September)
Virgin's Bower Clematis virginiana

SEPTEMBER

Aster Aster spp
Goldenrod Solidago spp
Sampson's Snakeroot Gentiana villosa (into Oct.)
Soapwort Gentiana saponaria (into Oct.)
Stiff Gentian Gentiana quinquefolia (into Oct.)
Witch Hazel Hamamelis virginiana (into December)



Fall Color and Wildflower Calendars for Clay County

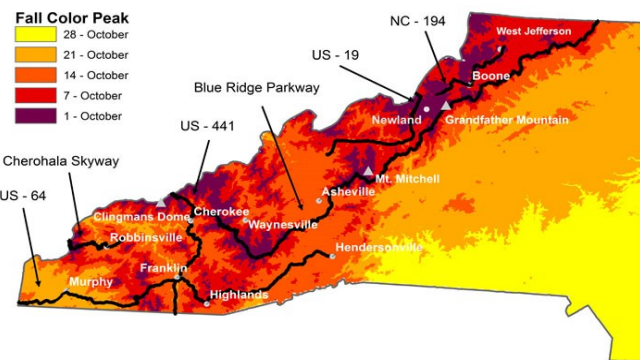
Clay County Chamber of Commerce

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Fall Colors in and around Clay County



Fall is a great time to visit the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in western North Carolina to view leaves adorned in brilliant reds, oranges and yellows. When temperatures cool in autumn, chlorophyll starts to degrade allowing the hidden pigments of deciduous trees to provide a rich, colorful display. This rich display often starts at the highest elevation in late September and early October, gradually progressing to the lowest elevation by late October and early November. Peak season occurs around mid-October. At **high-elevation**, above 4500 feet, red, crimson and orange colors are displayed among the sugar maples and mountain maples, yellow hues are displayed with beech and yellow birch, and red displayed with serviceberry, red oak and high-bush blueberry leaves as well as mountain ash berries.

Fall flowering species at these elevations include yellows from skunk goldenrod and roan goldenrod, blues from wavy-leaved aster and eastern agave-weed, and white wood aster. Red spruce, Fraser fir and Catawba rhododendron provide a backdrop of green evergreen foliage within many of the high-elevation areas. At **mid-elevation** from 2500-4500 feet, the colors are just as brilliant although the individual species change.

Prominent trees include tulip poplar (yellow), black birch (yellow), hickory species (red), sourwood (red), flowering dogwood (red), blackgum (scarlet) and numerous oaks (reds, yellow, scarlet). Evergreen trees such as pitch pine, table mountain pine and white pine as well as the abundant great rhododendron provide a green carpet interspersed with the deciduous trees. Prominent flowering species include many aster and goldenrod species, grass-leaved golden-aster, as well as a few sunflowers.

At the lowest elevation the deciduous colors are more dispersed and include many of the mid-elevation species. One addition is the scarlet of southern red oak and the tans and whites of more numerous flowering grasses such as little bluestem, Indian grass and plume grass.

Best Viewing Areas at each elevation

Excellent places to view the high elevation colors are: Cherokee Skyway in Graham County; Wayah Bald and Wine Spring Creek area in Macon County;

Excellent places to view the colors at mid-elevations include: Chunky Gal Mountains from Standing Indian to Shooting Creek along US 64 in Macon and Clay Counties; and Along NC 28 and 143 within Graham County from Fontana Village to Stecoah Gap.

Road trips to view the colors at lower elevations include: Joe Brown Highway in Cherokee County; US 64 in eastern Clay County; US 441 in southern Macon County; and NC 28 in Swain County near Fontana Lake;

Local Wildflower Blooming Times

APRIL

Bellwort *Uvalaria grandiflora*
Blackberry *Rubus argustus* (into May)
Blazing Star *Chamaelirium luteum* (into June)
Bleeding Heart *Dicentra exima* (into June)
Blue Cohosh *Caulophyllum thalictroides* (into May)
Blue Star *Amsonia tabernaemontana*
Catesby's Trillium *Trillium catesbaei* (into May)
Crested Dwarf Iris *Iris cristata* (into May)
False Solomon's Seal *Smilacina racemosa* ('til June)
Fire Pink *Silene virginica* (into July)
Foam Flower *Tiarella cordifolia* (into June)
Fringed Phacelia *Phacelia fimbriata* (into May)
Giant Chickweed *Stellaria pubera* (into June)
Golden Ragwort *Senecio aureus* (into June)
Heal All *Prunella vulgaris* (till frost)
Indian Cucumber Root *Medeola virginiana*
Indian Paintbrush *Castilleja coccinea* (into May)
Large Flowered Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum* (into May)
Leucothue *Leucothue* spp. (into June)
Lily of the Valley *Convallaria montana* (into May)
Lyre Leaved Sage *Salvia lyrata* (into May)
Mayapple *Podophyllum peltatum* (into May)
Nodding Mandarin *Disporum maculatum* (into May)
Nodding Trillium *Trillium cernuum* (into May)
Painted Trillium *Trillium undulatum* (into May)
Pink Ladyslipper *Cypripedium acaule* (into June)
Pink Wood Sorrel *Oxalis violacea* (into July)
Phacelia *Phacelia bipinnatifida* (into May)
Redbud Tree *Cercia canadensis* (into May)
Robins-Plantain *Erigeron pulchellus* (into June)
Shooting Star *Dodecatheon meadia* (into May)
Showy Orchid *Orchis spectabilis* (into May)
Solomon's Seal *Polygonatum biflorum* (into June at higher elevations)
Squaw Root *Conopholus americana* (into June)
Squirrel Corn *Dicentra canadensis* (into May)
Twisted Stalk *Streptopus roseus* ('til June)
Umbrella Leaf *Diphylleia cymosa* (into June)
Wild Ginger *Asarum canadense* (into May)
Wake Robin *Trillium erectum* (into May)
Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum* (into June)
Yellow Ladyslipper *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *pubescens* (into June)