

# Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

## Red maple - black-gum palustrine forest

The canopy is dominated by *Acer rubrum* (red maple) and/or *Nyssa sylvatica* (black-gum). Other trees, e.g. *Betula alleghaniensis* (yellow birch), *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine), *Tsuga canadensis* (eastern hemlock), *Quercus bicolor* (swamp white oak), *Q. palustris* (pin oak), or *Salix nigra* (black willow), may also occur. The shrub layer is variable and may include *Vaccinium corymbosum* (highbush blueberry), *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry), *Alnus* spp. (alder), and *Cornus* spp. (dogwoods). Herbs include *Symplocarpus foetidus* (skunk-cabbage), *Viola* spp. (violets), *Osmunda cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern), *Carex* spp. (various sedges), and *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern).

**Related types:** The "Red maple - black ash palustrine forest" occurs under the influence of calcareous waters, and is characterized by the presence of *Fraxinus nigra* (black ash) on most sites and herbaceous calciphiles on some sites.

**Range:** Entire state.

**Selected references:** Golet et al. 1993, Sneddon, Anderson, and Metzler 1996.

[**Crosswalk:** subtypes "a" and "d" of Smith's "Acidic Broadleaf Swamp," and parts of "Circumneutral Broadleaf Swamp," TNC's *Acer rubrum* - *Nyssa sylvatica* Forest Alliance, SAF's Red maple (108).]