

# Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

## Hemlock (white pine) forest

*Tsuga canadensis* (eastern hemlock), *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine), or more often a combination of the two dominates these forests. Conifer cover generally exceeds 75% of the canopy. Associate species include a variety of northern hardwoods and oaks. Typical representatives include *Betula lenta* (sweet birch), *B. alleghaniensis* (yellow birch), *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple), *A. rubrum* (red maple), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Q. velutina* (black oak), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), and *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tuliptree). Representative shrubs include *Rhododendron maximum* (rosebay), *Viburnum lantanoides* (witch-hobble), *V. acerifolium* (maple-leaved viburnum), and *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch-hazel). Typical herbs and creeping shrubs include *Maianthemum canadense* (Canada mayflower), *Mitchella repens* (partridge-berry), *Lycopodium* spp. (ground pine), *Gaultheria procumbens* (teaberry), *Thelypteris noveboracensis* (New York fern), *Medeola virginiana* (Indian cucumber root), and *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern).

**Related types:** If the conifer component is less than 75% relative cover, see the mixed conifer broadleaf terrestrial forest section.

**Range:** Glaciated NE, Glaciated NW, Pocono Plateau, Unglaciated Allegheny Plateau.

**Selected references:** Braun 1950, Nichols 1935.

[**Crosswalk:** Smith's "Northern Conifer Forest," TNC's *Tsuga canadensis* - *Pinus strobus* Forest Alliance, SAF's White pine-hemlock (22) and Eastern hemlock (23).]