

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Red maple (terrestrial) forest

This is generally an early-to mid-successional type that is becoming increasingly common as red maple increases in Pennsylvania's forests. This type is seldom pure, but *Acer rubrum* (red maple) dominates the tree stratum. Associate species include *Quercus* spp. (oaks), *Betula lenta* (sweet birch), *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tuliptree), *Carya* spp. (hickories), *Fraxinus americana* (white ash), *Prunus serotina* (wild black cherry), and other hardwoods. Because *Acer rubrum* (red maple) has such a wide ecological amplitude, this type may occur from the upper through the lower slope. Accordingly, the associated species vary greatly. Some shrubs commonly present include *Viburnum acerifolium* (maple-leaved viburnum), *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch-hazel), and *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel), *Gaylussacia baccata* (black huckleberry), and *Corpus florida* (flowering dogwood). More information is needed regarding the ecology and species composition of this community type.

Related types: The "Northern hardwood forest" type may contain a substantial amount of *Acer rubrum* (red maple), especially in younger stands. This type is not intended to include very young successional stands of northern hardwoods.

Range: Entire state.

Selected reference: Abrams 1998.

[**Crosswalk:** Smith - no crosswalk, TNC - no crosswalk, SAF's Red maple (108).]