

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Black cherry - northern hardwood forest

This forest type is characterized by at least 40% relative cover by black cherry and is most characteristic of the Unglaciaded Allegheny Plateau. Common associates are *Acer rubrum* (red maple), *A. saccharum* (sugar maple), *Betula lenta* (sweet birch), *B. alleghaniensis* (yellow birch), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), and *Quercus* spp. (oaks), usually *Q. rubra* (northern red oak). *Pinus strobus* (eastern white pine) and/or *Tsuga canadensis* (eastern hemlock) may be present (at less than 25% relative cover). Shrubs include *Viburnum lantanoides* (witch-hobble), *Acer pensylvanicum* (moose-wood), *Rubus allegheniensis* (Allegheny blackberry), *Ilex montana* (mountain holly), *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch-hazel), and *Amelanchier arborea* (shadbush). Common herbaceous species include *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* (hayscented fern), *Thelypteris noveboracensis* (New York fern), *Dryopteris intermedia* (common wood fern), *Lycopodium* spp. (ground pine), *Aster acuminatus* (wood aster), *Viola* spp. (violets), *Medeola virginiana* (Indian cucumber-root), *Uvularia sessilifolia* (wild-oats), *Brachyelytrum erectum* (brachyelytrum), *Maianthemum canadense* (Canada mayflower), and *Oxalis acetosella* (common wood-sorrel).

Related types: The "Northern hardwood forest" may contain *Prunus serotina* (wild black cherry) as a component, but it does not generally exceed 40% relative cover. This forest type is most characteristic of the Unglaciaded Allegheny Plateau.

Range: Glaciaded NE, Glaciaded NW, Unglaciaded Allegheny Plateau.

Selected references: Hough and Forbes 1943, Marquis 1975.

[**Crosswalk:** Smith's " Northern Hardwood (Broadleaf) Forest," TNC's *Acer saccharum* - *Betula alleghaniensis* - *Fagus grandifolia* Forest Alliance, *Acer saccharum* - *Betula alleghaniensis* - *Prunus serotina* Community, SAF's Black cherry - maple (28).]