

Dry-Mesic Oak Forests

Ecoregions

- Allegheny Mountains
- Ridge and Valley
- Western Allegheny Plateau
- Cumberland Mountains

Description

Dry-mesic oak forest accounts for 30.5% of all state area. Dry-mesic oak forests are upland, mostly deciduous forests at lower and middle elevations throughout the state. Soils are usually somewhat less acidic and more fertile compared to the Dry Oak (-Pine) Forest but are dryer than the Mixed Mesophytic Forest or Northern Hardwood Forest. Most stands have a large component of oaks, including Red Oak, Chestnut Oak, White Oak, and Black Oak. A subset can be described as oak – hickory forests with a large component of hickory species including Pignut, Mockernut, and Shagbark. Other common trees include Red Maple, Sugar Maple, White Ash, Tuliptree, Black Gum, and American Beech. Common small trees and shrubs include Sourwood, Witch Hazel, Hop Hornbeam, Serviceberry, and Dogwood. Heath shrubs may be present but are not abundant as in the Dry Oak (-Pine) Forest. Common vines include Virginia Creeper and Greenbrier. The herb layer ranges from sparse to moderate and is often quite diverse. Semi-natural forests within this map class may be dominated by Tuliptree, Black Locust, Red Maple, Sweet Birch, or Eastern White Pine. Also includes areas of pine plantations.

Plant communities

This forest type supports a number of rare plant communities, as identified in the table below.

Common Name	G-Rank
Natural Red Pine Forest	G1
Oak - Muscletree Floodplain Forest	G1
Ridge and Valley Pitch Pine Peat Woodland	G1
Sinkhole Marsh	G1
Calcareous Prairie	G1G2
Northern White-cedar Slope Woodland	G1G2
Acidic Sandstone Riverscour Shrub-Prairie	G2
Calcareous Shale Prairie Woodland	G2
High-Elevation Boulderfield Forest	G2
Nodding Sedge - Prickly Bog Sedge Seep	G2
Red Maple - Black Gum / Peatmoss Swamp	G2
Red Maple - Black Gum / Peatmoss Swamp	G2
Red Maple - White Oak Forest Seep	G2
Red Spruce / Heath Rocky Woodland	G2
Sinkhole Pond Oak Swamp	G2

Species

This forest type supports multiple known Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the table below.

Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank
<i>Arrhopalites sp. 3</i>	A Collembola	G1
<i>Calymmaria virginica</i>	A Hahniid Spider	G1
<i>Islandiana sp. 1</i>	A Spider	G1
<i>Triodopsis rugosa</i>	Buttressed Threetooth	G1
<i>Paravitrea bellona</i>	Club Supercoil	G1
<i>Triodopsis platysayoides</i>	Flat-spined Threetooth	G1
<i>Mesomphix luisant</i>	Glossy Button	G1
<i>Helicodiscus villosus</i>	Greenbrier Coil	G1
<i>Anguispira stihleri</i>	Greenbrier Tigersnail	G1
<i>Triodopsis sp. 1</i>	Piney Creek Threetooth	G1
<i>Mesomphix sp. 1</i>	Pygmy Button	G1
<i>Mesomphix sp. 1</i>	Pygmy Button	G1
<i>Chitrella regina</i>	Royal Syarinid Pseudoscorpion	G1
<i>Glyphyalinia sp. 1</i>	West Virginia Glyph	G1
<i>Gyrinophilus subterraneus</i>	West Virginia Spring Salamander	G1
<i>Malaxis bayardii</i>	Adder's Mouth	G1G2
<i>Pycnanthemum clinopodioides</i>	Basil Mountainmint	G1G2
<i>Plethodon nettingi</i>	Cheat Mountain Salamander	G1G2
<i>Stachys eplingii</i>	Epling's Hedge-nettle	G1G2
<i>Monarda brevis</i>	Smoke Hole Bergamot	G1G2
<i>Pyrgus wyandot</i>	Appalachian Grizzled Skipper	G1G2Q
<i>Pseudosinella meganporteri</i>	A Springtail	G2
<i>Stenotrema simile</i>	Bear Creek Slitmouth	G2
<i>Corallorhiza bentleyi</i>	Bentley's Coralroot	G2
<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	Harperella	G2
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	G2
<i>Allium oxyphilum</i>	Nodding Onion	G2
<i>Bombus affinis</i>	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	G2
<i>Arabis serotina</i>	Shale Barren Rockcress	G2
<i>Pycnanthemum torrei</i>	Torrey's Mountainmint	G2
<i>Anthrobia coylei</i>	A Sheetweb Weaver	G2?
<i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby's Mountain-lover	G2?
<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiraea	G2?