

Dry Oak (-Pine) Forests

Ecoregions

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

Description

Dry oak (-pine) forest accounts for 15.2% of all state area. Dry oak (-pine) forests are upland deciduous and mixed evergreen-deciduous forests on warm, dry topographic positions and soils throughout the state, except at the highest elevations, most extensive in the Ridge and Valley Ecoregion. Soils are typically shallow, dry, and highly acidic, with low to moderate fertility. Dominant trees include Chestnut Oak, Scarlet Oak, Black Oak, White Oak, and Red Maple. Sourwood is a common small tree, except in the Ridge and Valley Ecoregion, where it is absent. In the eastern counties there are large areas where Eastern White Pine is codominant with oaks. Other pines are often found scattered in mostly deciduous stands. Some small patches in the Western Allegheny Plateau and Cumberland Mountains ecoregions are dominated or co-dominated by Virginia Pine or Short Leaf Pine. Understories are usually dominated by heath shrubs, including Mountain Laurel, Black Huckleberry, and blueberries. Herb layers are usually sparse and have low diversity.

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
Sinkhole Marsh	G1
Calcareous Prairie	G1G2
Northern White-cedar Slope Woodland	G1G2
Calcareous Shale Prairie Woodland	G2
High-Elevation Boulderfield Forest	G2
Mountain Laurel - Black Huckleberry Heath Barren	G2
Red Maple - Black Gum / Peatmoss Swamp	G2
Red Spruce / Heath Rocky Woodland	G2
Red Spruce / Southern Mountain Cranberry Forest	G2
High Elevation Sandstone Boulderfield	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>Calymmaria virginica</i>	A Hahniid Spider	G1
<i>Triodopsis rugosa</i>	Buttressed Threetooth	G1
<i>Paravitrea bellona</i>	Club Supercoil	G1
<i>Triodopsis platysayoides</i>	Flat-spired 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>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>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?