

## Red Spruce Forests

### Ecoregions

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

### Description

Red Spruce forest accounts for 1.1% of all state area. Red Spruce forests are usually found where soils are rocky, highly acidic, and cold. Associated trees may include the evergreen Eastern Hemlock, and deciduous Yellow Birch, Red Maple, American Beech, Mountain Ash, and Black Cherry. Common shrubs include Mountain Holly, Great Rhododendron, Striped Maple, Southern Mountain Cranberry, and Mountain Laurel. The herb layer is characterized by species adapted to short, cool growing seasons, including Intermediate Woodfern, Mountain Woodfern, Mountain Wood Sorrel, Canada Mayflower, and Painted Wakerobin. Mosses and liverworts often have heavy cover over the rocky ground. This upland forest ecosystem may include forest seeps which are too small to map as a separate wetland habitat.

### Plant communities

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

Community Name	G-Rank
Balsam Fir - Black Ash Swamp	G1
Barbara's Buttons Ice-Scour Prairie	G1
Bog-Rosemary Peatland	G1
Natural Red Pine Forest	G1
Pitch Pine / Heath Peat Woodland	G1G2
Balsam Fir - Oatgrass Swamp	G2
Balsam Fir - Winterberry Swamp	G2
Cranberry - Beakrush Peatland	G2
High-Elevation Boulderfield Forest	G2
Mountain Laurel - Black Huckleberry Heath Barren	G2
Nodding Sedge - Prickly Bog Sedge Seep	G2
Red Spruce - Southern Mountain Cranberry Swamp	G2
Red Spruce – Yellow Birch Forest	G2
Red Spruce / Heath Rocky Woodland	G2
Red Spruce / Southern Mountain Cranberry Forest	G2
Red Spruce / Three-seeded Sedge Peat Woodland	G2
High Elevation Sandstone Boulderfield	G2?
Red Spruce - Hemlock / Rhododendron Swamp	G2?
Star Sedge Fen	G2?

## Species

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

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>G-Rank</b>
<i>Calymmaria virginica</i>	A Hahniid Spider	G1
<i>Triodopsis rugosa</i>	Buttressed Threetooth	G1
<i>Platanthera shriveri</i>	Shriver's Frilly Orchid	G1
<i>Plethodon nettingi</i>	Cheat Mountain Salamander	G1G2
<i>Stenotrema simile</i>	Bear Creek Slitmouth	G2
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	G2
<i>Bombus affinis</i>	Rusty-patched Bumble Bee	G2