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CLOUDY OUTLOOK



A storm cloud moves over the parked vehicles on Sandy Neck Beach in West Barnstable Wednesday afternoon. Photo taken Aug. 27. RON SCHLOERB/CAPE COD TIMES

Fall foliage in MA: Yankee Magazine predicts peak time for best colors

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

As August comes to an end, fall makes its approach, with pumpkin spice returning to coffee shops, apple orchards reopening for picking and a slight chill winding through the air.

However, it cannot truly be fall in New England until the leaves change colors, and luckily, this year will see another beautiful show, according to the fall foliage forecast from Yankee Magazine. But when exactly will the leaves turn, and what specially can be expected out of this autumn foliage season?

Here's the full forecast for fall foliage in Massachusetts this year, according to Yankee Magazine.

Massachusetts fall foliage forecast 2025

According to Yankee Magazine forecaster and foliage reporter Jim Salge, New England will likely see plentiful, beautiful foliage colors this year.

"New England is known for its beautiful fall weather, which is also paramount in bringing out the best fall colors," Salge said in the article. "We know it's going to be beautiful – it always is."

While the various factors that contribute to fall foliage can make autumn colors difficult to predict, the best indicator for the season is the past year's weather, explains Salge.

Following a drought last fall, New England saw a lot of rain this spring, with rain falling for twelve Saturdays

straight in May and June. This rain allowed the trees to recover from last year's drought, giving them necessary moisture for colorful leaves in the coming fall. However, the timing of the rain also caused the development of fungus, which may hinder fall color on some trees.

"Since that rainfall overlapped with the critical leaf-out period, some fungus did set up on tree leaves," said Salge.

This summer's persistent humidity caused early fungal problems to hold on in the leaves, with hickory, striped maple, oak and cherry trees showing significant fungal stress in specific areas across New England.

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Story of JFK's funeral comes to light

Heather McCarron
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A quiet act of honor at President John F. Kennedy's funeral — and a long-hidden sculpture meant to commemorate it — are brought back into the light in the latest episode of The White House 1600 Sessions podcast, which the White House Historical Association released Aug. 20.

Titled "A Memorial for President John F. Kennedy," the episode reveals an emotional and largely unknown story about the former president's burial and the gesture that inspired a secret art project — one that has remained out of public view for decades.

On the podcast, host Stewart McLaurin, president of the historical association, talks with three people

See JFK, Page 8A

Israel steps up Gaza City bombardment

Nidal al-Mughrabi and Emma Farge
REUTERS

CAIRO – Israeli forces killed at least 16 Palestinians across Gaza on Aug. 28 and wounded dozens in the south of the enclave, local health officials said, as residents reported intensified military bombardment in the suburbs of Gaza City.

The military is preparing to take Gaza City, the enclave's largest urban center, despite international calls on Israel to reconsider this over fears that the operation would cause significant casualties and displace the roughly one million Palestinians sheltering there.

In Gaza City, residents said families were fleeing their homes, with most heading toward the coast, as Israel forces bombarded the eastern suburbs of Shejaia, Zeitoun, and Sabra.

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