

Yankee Magazine has named East Haddam, CT as 11th on its list of the top 25 towns in New England for fall foliage viewing – the first time the magazine has ever ranked towns by this standard.

One of only four Connecticut towns on the list, including No. 1 ranked Kent, East Haddam is the only town outside of Litchfield County.

A slide show on the magazine's website shows a foliage scene along the Connecticut River near the Goodspeed Opera House, but it was the overall experience of leaf-peeping throughout East Haddam that won the town the distinction.

Choices for the article, "The Top 25 Foliage Towns in New England," were made after a variety of tourism professionals, as well as Yankee's own writers and editors, first nominated communities for an initial review.

The top contenders were then scored on a scale from 0 to 5 in 14 essential attributes of a perfect fall foliage outing:

- color intensity,
- scenery,
- vistas,
- nearby water,
- scenic drives,
- hikes,
- culture,
- farmers' markets and farmstands,
- orchards,
- covered bridges,
- state or local parks,
- the quality and variety of shops to browse,
- tourism amenities such as hotels and restaurants,
- and a category called "uncrowded," which gives a boost to less touristy locations.

Celebrating the publication's 75th anniversary, Yankee Magazine's September/October edition includes a full write-up and chart showing each town's category results.

With peak foliage season expected in East Haddam around the middle of October, visitors and residents will soon be experiencing what they like about autumn in New England.

*Posted Sept. 28, 2010*