

WHEN THE LIGHT IS RIGHT

This chart illustrates the ever changing sunlight effects on a landscape. The best light for any given scene depends on the scene itself, the season, the weather, and the time of day. That’s not to say a good landscape can not be made under any of these less than ideal conditions. In fact a lot may be said for the second image made at dawn. It has a dark and mysterious mood. But I still hedge my bets on the early morning sun. Later in the day direct light hits different parts of treetops, casts different shadows, and changes the shape of the basic forms. In this example, a different scene in the same forest would probably be a better choice.



Pre-Dawn



Dawn



Dawn + 10 Minutes



Dawn + 20 minutes - Some direct light - best time for this scene



Mid-Morning Overcast



Noon - Direct overhead



Afternoon - Harsh contrast light

The images shown here were made with the Panasonic DCM-L1. All were taken in RAW mode with the meter set at “Multiple.” The settings were as follows:

Pre-dawn:
f/3.5
1/8 sec
ISO 200

Dawn
f/7.1
1/100 sec
IOS 200

Dawn + 10 min
f/7.1
1/100 sec
IOS 200

Dawn + 20 min
f/7.1
1/160 sec
IOS 200

Mid-morning Over-
cast
f/7.1
1/125
IOS 200

Noon - Direct overhead
f/8
1/125
ISO 200

Afternoon - Harsh
contrast light
f/7.1
1/125
ISO 200