

## October 16, 2018

Good evening!

What a difference a few days can make in the fall weather! Our warm temperatures are now a thing of the past, at least for a while. We have seen some frost in the area this week and our plants are going into dormancy. Hopefully you already brought inside any plants you want to keep that could be hurt...

There are no more phenological events listed on the Ohio Phenology Calendar. The last event occurred at 2195 GDDs, which was several weeks ago. Although smooth aster is not listed on the calendar, we are still watching it for end-of-bloom. By watching the current GDD figures, we hope to be able to estimate its bloom span in the future.

We still have smooth aster, coreopsis, iris, and butterfly bush (*buddleia*) blooming in the phenology garden but very few pollinators are out and about due to the cooler weather – in fact, some have migrated and others have started to hibernate. We will soon have no data or photos to post, but we'll look forward to resuming these reports in the spring.

Please feel free to visit and find past data at the OSU Phenology Calendar at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp>. Plug in your zip code (or the one closest to you if your code is not in the network) along with the date and you can see what potential events have occurred in your area for past dates. Events are listed in the order they generally appear; there are pictures of the plants and insects listed. Keep in mind that these are general values for each particular zip code and may vary a bit within that area.

Our high temperatures will be in the 50's this week with low temps in the 30's. We will likely have some harder frosts – it is October, after all! It's time to clean up our gardens and tools – don't forget to drain the hoses and put them away. It's a good idea to apply a thin coat of oil to all the metal parts of gardening tools to prevent rust before storing them.

We found a hole in the side of the monarch chrysalis we saw last week; it was empty and we can surmise that a predator of some sort destroyed it. Realistically, only 10% or less of monarch caterpillars become viable butterflies.

There are still fact sheets on Asian lady beetles, brown marmorated stink bugs, and ticks in the boxes on the information station at Lake Park – feel free to take them; they are also available at the Coshocton County – OSU Extension office. Remember that black-legged ticks are active all year round – be very careful when cleaning up your gardens and raking leaves!

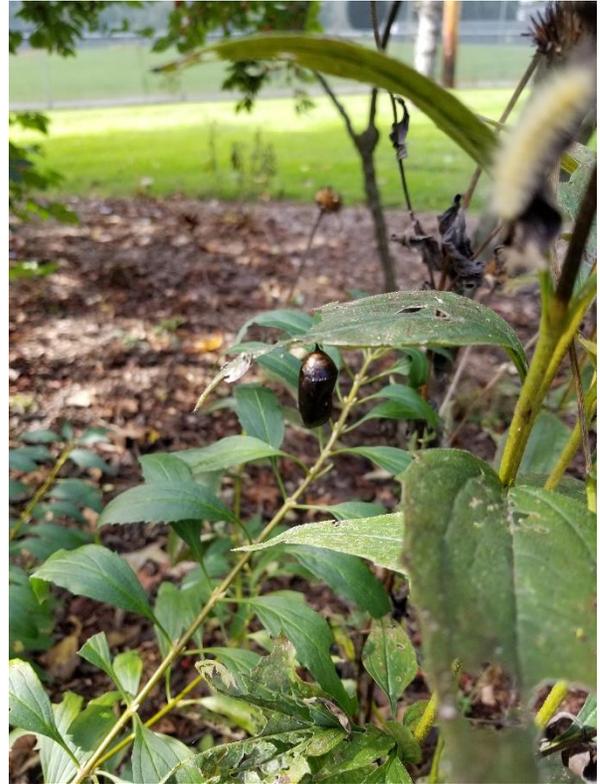
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) seeds and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seeds will be available at the MGV display at the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour; we will be at Dr. Darr's, the first stop of the tour. Seeds are also available at the Extension office. Both types of seeds should be sown this fall to germinate in the spring and both are on the list of required plants for monarch butterflies; the blooms attract other pollinators as well. It is a good idea to mark where the seeds are planted – they germinate later than many other plants and can be mistaken for weeds. BTW, it's also time to plant narcissus, tulip, and other bulbs; they can be put in the ground right up until the ground freezes. As a rule of thumb, the hole for the bulb should be about 3 times as deep as the height of the bulb.

Have a great week – and don't forget the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour this weekend, October 20 & 21!

*See next page for recent photos from the MGV phenology area!*



This monarch chrysalis was hanging on a common milkweed stalk. The dark area is damaged, probably by a predator, and the butterfly did not survive.



Another monarch chrysalis (center) was discovered by some visitors to Lake Park. Unfortunately, this one also was “invaded” and empty.



Our common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods are slowly maturing. They are ready to save when they are brown and split open with a little pressure.

