

April 3, 2018

Good evening!

We are changing the reporting day from Wednesday to Tuesday in order to let us get the weekly phenology report prepared and posted well before the weekend. Hope that helps any of you who are watching the data closely!

Despite the snow on Sunday night through Monday morning, we had some warmer weather overall this past week which gave us a bigger boost in our Growing Degree Day totals. As noted below in the list of accumulated GDDs, each zip code increased by 6 to 8; we now have a 6-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County. Bigger differences will occur as time goes on.

Just for fun, we've noted the GDDs for the same date last year – what a difference can be seen from year to year! If you remember, last spring came unusually early, so those figures are much higher than this year's. Here is the current data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units (GDD units) in our county:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adams Mills/43821 | 70 (+8 GDD this week) | 159 GDDS for 4/3/2017 (last year) |
| Conesville/43811 | 67 (+7) | 153 |
| Coshocton/43812 | 65 (+7) | 149 |
| Fresno/43824 | 64 (+6) | 148 |
| Walhonding/43843 | 64 (+6) | 147 |
| Warsaw/43844 | 65 (+7) | 148 |
| W. Lafayette/43845 | 67 (+7) | 149 |

Although it's progress in the right direction, the small increase in GDDs this week isn't enough to get too far along the phenology calendar; much of this information has not changed. Some phenological events that you may be seeing now or will see soon are:

- Japanese pieris, first bloom at 60
- Red maple, full bloom at 75

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Star magnolia, first bloom at 83
- White pine weevil (*Pissodes strobi*), adult emergence at 84
- Border forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), first bloom at 86

You can find the OSU Phenology Calendar at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp>. Plug in your zip code and the date and you can see what potential events are occurring in your area. There are pictures of the plants and insects listed and a list of the events in the order they generally appear. Keep in mind that these are general values for a particular zip code and may vary a bit within that area.

The blooms on our *Gold Tide forsythia* ('*Courtasol*') at Lake Park look quite pretty now that it's nearly in full bloom. Meanwhile, our star magnolia had first bloom this week, meaning that at least one bloom is open enough to see the pistils inside. Lots of daffodils are now open and the phenology area looks gorgeous with all those blooms! Daylilies, lupine, coneflowers, golden zizia, mountain mint, and other perennials are showing green leaves at ground level and will soon be growing nicely. We also noticed leaves starting to break out on

our Bumald spirea 'Goldflame'. By the way, Lake Park Clean-up Day is Saturday, April 7, 9:00 to noon – come out and enjoy the blooms while volunteering to help beautify our community!

Our local forecast for the coming week shows temps remaining below normal – highs in the 40's and even in the 30's some days. Some of our nights may even reach down into the 20's. This is a good time to remind everyone to not get in too big a hurry to uncover plants; the leaves and other garden debris from last fall and winter will help protect tender shoots from cold temperatures. We should not see an increase in our GDDs or much progress of our blooms this coming week. As we have mentioned before, the cool weather will help the daffodil blooms to last longer... but we may lose the magnolia bloom if temperatures get too cold.



At the Phenology Garden at Lake Park, we have several signs of early spring. Notice the daffodils, the burgundy hellebore at the base of the tree, and the golden yellow forsythia against the rail fence.



Star magnolia 'Royal Star' achieved first bloom this week – a few blossoms are open near the top of the tree.



A closer look at some of the many daffodils in the Phenology Area at Lake Park – take a walk from the office toward the exit and enjoy them!

