

**April 10, 2018**

Good evening!

We will continue to use Tuesday as our reporting day – just in case you missed that bit of news last week! This timing helps us get the phenology information out sooner so that it is more appropriate to the dates.

Mother Nature wanted to keep a firm grasp on winter this past week, didn't she! We didn't get much of a boost in our Growing Degree Day totals. As noted below in the list of accumulated GDDs, each zip code increased by 2 to 4; we now have a 7-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County. Bigger differences will occur as time goes on.

Again, we've noted the GDDs for the same date last year – although it would appear from those figures that this spring is very late in arriving, the truth is that last spring was WAY early. Here is the current data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units (GDD units) in our county:

Adams Mills/43821	74 (+4 GDD this week)	200 GDDs for 4/10/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	70 (+3)	193
Coshocton/43812	68 (+3)	188
Fresno/43824	67 (+3)	186
Walhonding/43843	67 (+3)	186
Warsaw/43844	67 (+2)	187
W. Lafayette/43845	68 (+3)	188

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. Some phenological events that you may be seeing now or will see soon are:

- Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), full bloom at 75
- Star magnolia (*Magnolia stella*), first bloom at 83
- White pine weevil (*Pissodes strobi*), adult emergence at 84
- Border forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), first bloom at 86

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*), egg hatch at 92
- Manchu Cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), first bloom at 93
- Northern Lights Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), full bloom at 94
- Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*), full bloom at 97
- Corneliancherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*), full bloom at 98

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.

Despite the snow and cold, the scheduled clean-up day at Lake Park went on as scheduled; however, we didn't do a lot at the phenology area! We cut off dead stalks but left them in piles in the beds so that any hibernating insects would not be harmed – we'll compost those stalks later. We also cut the ornamental grass, picked up some fallen sticks, and cut back the butterfly bush. We did NOT rake leaves off yet in anticipation of more cold nights. The star magnolia had started to open, but the cold nights zapped some of the open blooms; there are

still a lot of buds on the tree that hopefully were protected enough to open as the temps warm up and give us some magnolia beauty. Lots of daffodils are now open and look so pretty – and several more are in bud and will open soon. Some shrubs and perennials continue to show leaf break and some shoots are coming up from the ground. The hellebore is still blooming nicely and buds are swelling on the rhododendron and viburnum.

Our local forecast for the coming week shows warmer temperatures over the next few days – even a day or two that may get into the 70’s! That will help move things along phenologically. However, be reminded to not get in too big a hurry to uncover plants because we could still get some cold temperatures, especially at night. Also, let the ground warm up some more before applying mulch – don’t want to insulate the cold in the ground!

Something to keep in mind as the spring-blooming shrubs progress; if they are in need of pruning, do it immediately after the bloom is spent. These shrubs set buds soon after the bloom is gone and pruning too late will cut off those buds so that they are not available to flower next spring.



The daffodil bulbs continue to put on a pretty display at the phenology area at Lake Park.



Lupine plants are shooting up now and will show off gorgeous stalks of color in a few weeks.



Master Gardener Volunteer Tony and his wife Nancy working in the snow at the Phenology Garden on Saturday.

