

April 24, 2018

Good evening!

We had some days of mild high temperatures and not-so-cold night-time temps this week; each zip code increased between 18 and 20 GDD units so we now have an 8-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County. Again, we've noted the GDDs for the same date last year – what a difference, as last year was much warmer, much earlier. 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	140 (+19 GDD this week)	340 GDDs for 4/24/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	137 (+20)	327
Coshocton/43812	134 (+19)	317
Fresno/43824	134 (+19)	313
Walhonding/43843	132 (+18)	314
Warsaw/43844	133 (+19)	316
W. Lafayette/43845	134 (+19)	316

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

- Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*), first bloom at 127
- Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*), full bloom at 129
- Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*), first bloom at 133
- Exotic Ambrosia Beetle (*Xylosandrus germanus*), first adult emergence at 136
- Common Flowering quince (*Chaenomeles speciose*), first bloom at 137
- Bradford Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), first bloom at 142
- European Pine Sawfly (*Neodiprion sertifer*), egg hatch at 144
- Weeping Higan Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*), first bloom at 145
- PJM Rhododendron (*Rhododendron PJM*), first bloom at 147

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), full bloom at 149
- Chanticleer Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), full bloom at 149
- Inkberry Leafminer (*Liriomyza sativae*), adult emergence at 150
- Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stella*), full bloom at 151
- Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*), full bloom 151
- Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), first bloom at 153
- Spring Snow Crabapple (*Malus x spring snow*), first bloom at 155
- Manchu Cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), full bloom at 155
- Smooth Crabgrass, first seedling emergence at 155

You can find 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 are occurring in your area or check on past dates. 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.

Our local forecast for the coming week shows probable high temperatures in the 50's, 60's and perhaps a day or so in the low 70's with only a couple of nights down into the 30's; that will result in more GDDs. We are

starting to see other signs of spring – creeping phlox is starting to bloom and one of our Master Gardener Volunteers spotted a hummingbird at the feeder this week – time to get those feeders cleaned up and ready to go if you haven't already!

Have you noticed that the green color of the trees, fields and lawns is getting brighter? Our lawns are growing quickly and some folks have mowed already! Mow at 2 ½ to 3 inches or more in height to promote good root development and do not mow more than one-third the height of the grass at one time.

We are seeing a lot of weeds too! Besides hair bittercress, purple deadnettle and bedstraw (both pictured below) are invading. You can pull them now to help control them, but some folks like to leave the flowers for early pollinators. Many also leave dandelions for the pollinators – it's your personal preference that counts.

Another word of caution for gardeners – the ground presently is very, very wet. Don't be in a hurry to start working the soil or you may cause problems with compaction. To see if it's dry enough, pick up a bit of soil in your hand and form a ball. If it crumbles easily, it's dry enough to work; if the soil stays together it's too wet.



The PJM rhododendron in the phenology garden is in full bloom now – a bit ahead of schedule.



This double-bloomed daffodil (*Narcissus* family) is in bloom at the phenology garden now.



This weed, purple deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*), is growing now.
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/purple_dead_nettle_and_henbit_two_common_garden_sp



Another weed, bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), has made its appearance. One characteristic is that is that it sticks to everything!

