

August 14, 2018

Good evening!

We've had some rain this week – more in some places than others! – and it's been a little cooler over all. Summer is definitely winding down; the plants and pollinators are showing some fall tendencies.

Each zip code increased between 98 and 128 GDD units this week; we have a 147-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County due to varying temperatures in our micro-climates. That range accounts for the difference in bloom times for the same variety of plant in different areas. We have surpassed last year's GDDs on this date by as much as 90 and appear to be about 5 days ahead of last year in at least one zip code. 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	2406 (+128 GDDs this week)	2316 GDDs for 8/14/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2336 (+115)	2264
Coshocton/43812	2284 (+104)	2226
Fresno/43824	2259 (+98)	2208
Walhonding/43843	2276 (+104)	2219
Warsaw/43844	2281 (+104)	2223
W. Lafayette/43845	2279 (+103)	2223

There are no more phenological events listed on the Ohio Phenology Calendar. The last event listed is the Banded Ash Clearwing Borer (*Podosesia syringae*), adult emergence at 2195 GDDs. We will continue to watch some plants that are not on the calendar for bloom span and will still monitor the pollinators that visit them.

As we wind down the phenology season, you can still find the OSU Phenology Calendar online 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. There are pictures of the plants and insects listed; events are listed in the order they generally appear. Keep in mind that these are general values for each particular zip code and may vary a bit within that area.

Our local forecast for the coming week shows probable high temperatures in the 70's and 80's with low temps mostly in the 60's, so our GDD numbers will continue to increase, but most likely at a slower rate. There is some rain in the forecast as well.

Still in bloom in the phenology area are: wild quinine, coreopsis, pinnate coneflowers, mountain mint, swamp milkweed, boneset, and hyssop. Several of the other blooms such as the bee balms, coneflowers, and Culver's root are waning. Although it's not a native plant, the butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) is still blooming and attracting lots of pollinators. Our new blazing star (*Liatris*) plants are getting ready to open – they are taking their time! – and the asters and 'Autumn Joy' sedum are showing buds. We clipped some mature seed pods from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) this week and hope to share them to start some new plants.

We are still seeing bumble bees, carpenter bees, mining bees, sweat bees, lady beetles, butterflies, flies, and wasps on the blooms. We are seeing several monarch butterflies and found 9 more caterpillars this week.

We will need to divide some of our perennials in a few weeks. We may have a workshop at the garden for those who would like to learn about dividing hostas and other plants; dates will be posted in that case. Keep an eye on the information station for invasive alerts, fact sheets and coming events – we will be putting out info about Asian lady beetles and other nuisances soon!



This monarch caterpillar was on the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) this week along with a milkweed leaf beetle (visible in back of the upright stem).



The butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has many seed pods, some of which are mature enough to break open. We are collecting the seed and are hoping to share it to grow more butterfly weed!



This is the bloom of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) – easy to see how it gets its name! – that opened this week.



This photo of purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) was taken a couple of weeks ago and the blooms have faded a great deal now. It's a good idea to leave the seed heads in place for birds to eat!

