

August 21, 2018

Good evening!

Many parts of the county received significant rainfall this week – we had 3.4 inches in the gauge at the phenology garden! The moister soil makes it easier to pull weeds. ☺ Our temperatures have been somewhat cooler, especially at night, which is a good thing as our local boys and girls head back to school.

Each zip code increased between 20 and 79 GDD units this week, significantly less than recent weeks. We have a 206-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. Due to the cooler temps this week, we are now behind last year's GDDs on this date by as much as 97 in the Fresno area but nearly the same in the Adams Mills area. 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	2485 (+79 GDDs this week)	2490 GDDs for 8/21/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2388 (+52)	2435
Coshocton/43812	2316 (+32)	2395
Fresno/43824	2279 (+20)	2376
Walhonding/43843	2310 (+34)	2387
Warsaw/43844	2314 (+33)	2391
W. Lafayette/43845	2308 (+29)	2391

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 50's and 60's, so our GDD numbers will continue to increase at a slower rate. As it stands now, there is a little rain in the forecast.

Still in bloom in the phenology area are: coreopsis, pinnate coneflowers, mountain mint, boneset, wingstem, and hyssop. Our new 'Blazing Star' liatris opened this week and is quite striking; the 'Autumn Joy' sedum has just a few open blooms. The New England asters have a bit of color showing on the buds, so they will bloom soon. Several of the other blooms such as the bee balms and coneflowers are almost finished. Although it's not a native plant, the butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) is still blooming and attracting lots of pollinators. These fall-blooming plants are very important for our native pollinators because they continue to need nectar as we enter the fall season.

We are continuing to harvest seeds from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and will soon have seeds from the other milkweeds; the plan is to package them for folks who would like to start some of those plants.

There were a lot of butterflies out this week, including several monarchs; more monarch caterpillars were also seen on all 3 types of milkweed. Bees, wasps and flies are still active and we saw a few hummingbird moths this week – they are fascinating creatures! See if you can spot one in the butterfly (*Buddleia*) along the walking path. A praying mantis was also spotted in that shrub this week.

Make sure to stop by the information station and pick up some timely fact sheets! Master Gardener Volunteer events are also posted on the bulletin board.



This new-this-year plant in our garden, rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*), is now in bloom. It will be interesting to see which pollinators are attracted to it.



The clustered mountainmint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) was hosting some wasps this week. Wasps are considered pollinators because they carry some pollen from bloom to bloom.



This praying mantis was spotted in the lower leaves of the butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) this week.

