

## August 28, 2018

Good evening!

We were a little bit warmer this week – and had some humidity too! Fall weather will be coming quickly; this is a good time to divide or move perennials so that their root systems have time to settle in before cold weather arrives.

Each zip code increased between 21 and 87 GDD units this week, only slightly more than last week. We have a 272-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 cooler temps this week compared to last year, we are now behind last year's GDDs on this date by as much as 178 in the Fresno area but only 23 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	2572 (+87 GDDs this week)	2595 GDDs for 8/28/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2446 (+58)	2539
Coshocton/43812	2351 (+35)	2498
Fresno/43824	2300 (+21)	2478
Walhonding/43843	2345 (+35)	2489
Warsaw/43844	2349 (+35)	2494
W. Lafayette/43845	2340 (+32)	2494

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 network calendar for bloom span and will still monitor the pollinators that visit them. We will keep track of first bloom, end of bloom, and the corresponding GDDs for those plants and hope to be able to estimate their bloom time in the future.

The OSU Phenology Calendar is 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 80's with low temps mostly in the 60's, so our GDD numbers will continue to increase at a slower rate. It looks as though we'll have a mix of sunny and rainy days.

Still in bloom in the phenology area are: coreopsis, mountain mint, wingstem, hyssop, 'Blazing Star' liatris, and Autumn Joy sedum. New England aster, one of our newest plants, opened this week. Our purple coneflowers are virtually finished, but we are leaving the seed heads for the goldfinches to enjoy. The non-native butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) is still blooming and attracting butterflies, bees, and hummingbird moths. It bears repeating that these fall-blooming plants are very important for our native pollinators as they continue to need nectar for nutrition as we enter the fall season.

Seeds from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and will soon be offered at the Extension office and our Master Gardener Volunteer displays. Other types of milkweed seeds should be available when they mature. We continue to find monarch caterpillars on all three types of milkweed.

If our phenology area is any indication, monarch butterflies are doing better this year; we spied 5 at one time on the blue giant hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariifolia*)!

The information station will have some different fact sheets this week – including one on multicolored Asian lady beetles. We are noticing some yellowing of the soybean plants in our local fields, indicating that harvest is not too far away; when the beans are out of the fields, those beetles will look elsewhere for food and shelter. It would be wise to seal up potential points of entry to your home now...



A male monarch butterfly was attracted to the wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) this week. The small dark dots, one on either side of the body on the lower wings, indicate the male gender.



This carpenter bee was enjoying the 'Autumn Joy' sedum (*Hylotelephium telephium 'Herbstfreude'*) this week. Notice the shiny abdomen of the bee.



Monarch caterpillars have been found on the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) for several weeks. Aphids are also attracted to the plant and can be seen here on the seed pods.



The New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) opened recently and should provide late season nutrition.

