

**September 11, 2018**

Good evening!

The temperature really took a dive over the weekend, didn't it? And we had plenty of rain - 4 inches in the rain gauge at the phenology garden at Lake Park. It will be interesting to see if we get any more as a result of the hurricane that is threatening the east coast.

Each zip code increased between 121 and 124 GDD units this week, not as big an increase as last week due to the cooler temps. We have a 297-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County due to varying temperatures in our micro-climates. That range accounts for the differences in bloom time and insect emergence for the same species of plant or insect in different areas. Interestingly, we are ahead of last year's GDDs on this date in two zip codes (as much as 109 in the Adams Mills area), but we are behind in five zip codes (as much as 65 GDDs in the Fresno 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	2867 (+124 GDDs this week)	2758 GDDs for 9/11/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2728 (+122)	2699
Coshocton/43812	2625 (+122)	2656
Fresno/43824	2570(+123)	2636
Walhonding/43843	2618 (+121)	2647
Warsaw/43844	2622 (+121)	2652
W. Lafayette/43845	2613(+122)	2653

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. Events are listed in the order they generally appear; there are pictures of the plants and insects listed. 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 and low temps in the 60's, so our GDD numbers will continue to increase. Right now it looks as though we'll have several dry days - which will be very welcome after the amount of rain we had over the weekend - but we'll see if hurricane Florence brings any this far inland.

Still in bloom in the phenology area are: mountain mint, 'Blazing Star' liatris, New England aster, and Autumn Joy sedum. The non-native butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) still has some blooms. Our native pollinators are enjoying these later-blooming plants - they continue to need nectar for nutrition as the fall season approaches. We are also seeing some new buds on some iris in the area; these were given to us without a name or other information, but they have bloomed in both the spring and fall for two years - fun!

Seeds from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) will soon be offered at the Extension office and our Master Gardener Volunteer displays, including the MGV fair booth. Common milkweed seeds will be made available when they mature. We continue to find monarch caterpillars;

there were 12 on the common milkweed this week, 3 on a swamp milkweed plant, and 6 more on some honey-vine milkweed in the bed along the walking path.

There have been several goldfinches visiting the purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) plants and pinnate coneflowers (*Ratibida pinnata*) to eat the seeds. They are easily startled and we haven't been able to get any photos. We have also noticed several large spiderwebs.

The phenology report next week may be posted later than usual due to previous commitments, but we'll update it as soon as possible!



These two monarch butterflies were enjoying some nectar on our New England asters (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) this week.



Three monarch caterpillars have taken up residence on some honeyvine milkweed (*Cynanchum laeve*), in the phenology area. This vine is very similar to bindweed in appearance.



This large spider was found on the 'Autumn Joy' sedum (*Hylotelephium telephium* 'Herbstfreude') this week. Spiders like this are commonly seen in the fall.

