

March 25, 2019

Good afternoon!

Good news!! The Lenten Rose (*Helleborus*) opened last week in the phenology garden, a sure sign that spring is indeed not very far away! There are lots of buds coming on the daffodils and one purple crocus was about to open when we were there. One can see some yellow color on the buds of the Gold Tide forsythia; we cut a few small branches for the Lake Park office to put in water and “force” – a tiny bit of spring inside!

Last week we were informed that we will no longer report our plant data to the OSU Phenology Network; we may take part in a couple of other research sites, to be determined. The OSU Phenology Calendar will remain online at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp> and available to those who would like to check it. We are looking forward to this next step for our garden and will continue to be good stewards of the plants and pollinators there! Please feel free to stop and ask questions if we are there working or to contact us through the Extension office.

Here is the data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units (GDD units) in our county as of March 24, 2019:

Adams Mills/43821	48 (+22 GDD from 3/11/19)	61 GDDS for 3/24/2018 (last year)
Conesville/43811	46 (+21)	58
Coshocton/43812	43 (+20)	57
Fresno/43824	40 (+19)	56
Walhonding/43843	40 (+19)	56
Warsaw/43844	41 (+19)	56
W. Lafayette/43845	44 (+21)	57

The first phenological events that you will see locally are:

- Silver maple, first bloom at 34 GDD units
- Corneliancherry dogwood, first bloom at 40
- Silver maple, full bloom at 42
- Red maple, first bloom at 44
- Speckled alder, first bloom at 51

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Northern Lights forsythia, first bloom at 58
- Japanese pieris, first bloom at 60
- Red maple, full bloom at 75
- Star magnolia, first bloom at 83

We have a range of 40 to 48 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates. Those 8 GDDs in difference are not very important at this point but can account for why we see a plant blooming in one part of the county and not another; the ranges will expand as the season goes on. As you can see by looking at the GDDs listed for the same date last year, spring is arriving a bit slower this year. Looking at the weather forecast for next week, we may see a small increase in GDDs in our area. Although our nightly temps will remain chilly for the most part, our daytime highs will range from the 40's to the low 60's with a mix of sun and rain. Temps between 50 and 86 degrees F. are the range that affects the measurement of GDDs. The formulas for determining GDDs can be found online at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/glossary.asp>

We also noticed a bud on the hairy bittercress this week; that is the start of that plant trying to continue to spread! If you want to control this weed, now is a good time to pull them so they can't go to seed. Some of the perennials/ biennials are starting to send up shoots and buds are forming on some of the woody plants too.

If you would enjoy getting out in the fresh air and helping the community at the same time, mark your calendars for **Lake Park Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 6**, 9:00 am until noon. Volunteers are needed to help rake, spread mulch, pick up trash, and more. Friends of the Park will serve a simple lunch for all who attend.



The Lenten Rose, (*Helleborus x hybrida*) opened this week in the phenology garden.



These leaves belong to a 'Russell Mix' lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) plant, a biennial that readily re-seeds. The term "biennial" means the plant takes 2 years to grow, set seed, and die instead of coming back every year.



This bald-faced hornet's nest is left over from last year. It was barely visible until the leaves dropped last fall. Its occupants didn't bother anyone - except some other insects they preyed upon. The birds have pecked at it looking for larvae.



The buds on the Gold Tide forsythia 'Courtasol' (*Forsythia x intermedia*) are certainly yellow – it won't be long!

