



April 8, 2019

Good afternoon!

Spring is indeed here! We've had some warm days and some sunshine to enjoy; the sun makes the blooms on the forsythia, daffodils, hellebore and star magnolia look even prettier! We're also seeing more buds on the shrubs and trees as well as some leaves starting to open. We've been hearing more peepers and are starting to see more evidence of pollinators getting ready to "do their thing".

Although we are no longer reporting our plant data to the OSU Phenology Network, 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 will be reporting our data to a national research project and will continue to be good stewards of the plants and pollinators in our garden area at Lake Park! Please feel free to stop and ask questions if we are there working or to contact us through the Extension office (find the contact info above).

Here is the data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units (GDD units) in our county as of April 7, 2019:

Adams Mills/43821	92 (+44 GDD from 3/24/19)	74 GDDs for 4/7/2018 (last year)
Conesville/43811	89 (+43)	70
Coshocton/43812	83 (+40)	68
Fresno/43824	77 (+37)	67
Walhonding/43843	77 (+37)	67
Warsaw/43844	80 (+39)	67
W. Lafayette/43845	84 (+40)	68

Some phenological events that you may be seeing now or will see soon are:

- Japanese pieris (*Pieris japonica*), first bloom at 60
- Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), full bloom at 75
- Star magnolia (*Magnolia stella*), first bloom at 83
- White pine weevil (*Pissodes strobi*), adult emergence at 84
- Border forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), first bloom at 86
- Eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*), egg hatch at 92
- Manchu Cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), first bloom at 93
- Northern Lights Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), full bloom at 94

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*), full bloom at 97
- Corneliancherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*), full bloom at 98
- Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), first bloom at 116
- Border Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*), full bloom at 116

We have a range of 77 to 92 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates. Those 15 GDDs in difference are starting to show why we see a plant blooming in one part of the county and not another; the ranges will likely expand as the blooming season continues. As you can see by looking at the GDDs listed for the same date last year, we are now a little bit ahead for that time period; that could change if we get more cold weather. Looking at the weather forecast for next week, we will see an increase in GDDs in our area. Our daytime highs will range from the upper 40's to the low 70's; nightly lows will be in the upper 30's to upper 50's. At this point, it looks as though we'll have a little more rain later in the week.

As well as noticing blooms on the hairy bittercress this week, we found purple deadnettle starting to bloom. While the pollinators that come out early are much appreciative of those blooms, many gardeners consider them to be weeds – if so, now is a good time to pull them before they can go to seed or spread. We also found some starts of bedstraw and the very invasive garlic mustard, so be watching! A couple of fun finds (which we replaced!) were two egg cases of praying mantids (photo below) and a chrysalis (most likely a sphinx moth).

The phenology committee would like to thank the wonderful volunteers that came to help in the gardens on Saturday, April 6th, for Lake Park Clean-up Day! Volunteers raked, weeded, and spread mulch. It looks so nice and is very much appreciated – we heard several comments from the folks who came out to walk the trail. Please note that it is a bit early to rake everything out of our gardens and apply mulch – we do that at Lake Park simply because of time constraints. Leaving the leaves for a while longer gives our pollinators and wildlife some cover until the temperatures are reliably warmer – in fact, we have three more beds to clean out, but we'll wait a couple of more weeks.



Two praying mantis egg cases were found at the phenology area in Lake Park during clean-up day! We'll be watching for the little ones to hatch.



It was SO nice to have some volunteers come out and help clean up the phenology area during Lake Park Clean-up Day!!! A HUGE thank you to all of them!



There are loads of daffodils opening – they look so pretty in the sunshine!

