



Here is the phenology report for Fri., April 15. Isn't it wonderful to see sunshine and feel warmth after last weekend's icy blast? The forecast makes it look as though blooms will get back on track in the next week. The very cold temperatures last weekend ruined some of our tender blooms - the PJM rhododendron at the phenology garden was a casualty - but many of our hardier plants are developing nicely! Interestingly enough, our star magnolia was pretty well "cooked", but a couple of later-developing buds made it through and actually hosted a couple of pollinating flies the other day.

Here is the data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units:

Adams Mills/43821	212 GDDs
Conesville/43811	207
Coshocton/43812	193
Fresno/43824	178
Walhonding/43843	179
Warsaw/43844	186
W. Lafayette/43845	195

We have a range of 178 to 212 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates. Our GDD units increased a little more this past week, anywhere from 17 to 24 units depending on the area of the county. The Koreanspice viburnum at the phenology garden achieved first bloom on April 11, pretty much on schedule.

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

- PJM Rhododendron, full bloom at 178 - may have frost damage
- Common chokecherry, first bloom at 182
- Koreanspice viburnum, first bloom at 185
- Eastern redbud, first bloom at 191
- Gypsy moth, egg hatch at 192
- Snowdrift crabapple, first bloom at 198
- Koreanspice viburnum, full bloom at 205
- Azalea lace bug, egg hatch at 206

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Common flowering quince, full bloom at 214
- Birch leafminer, adult emergence at 215
- Coral burst crabapple, first bloom at 217
- Common chokecherry, full bloom at 221
- Honeylocust spider mite, egg hatch at 227
- Common lilac, first bloom at 234
- White/green ash and Persian lilac, full bloom at 240

We're watching our perennials and shrubs for growth - some are normally later than others, so don't be disappointed if you aren't "seeing green" yet. For example, our oakleaf hydrangea is just now developing tiny leaves while the lilacs have lots of growing green leaves. We haven't seen a few of our pollinator plants yet, but some are several inches tall; coneflowers and hostas are starting to emerge while our lupine is down-right bushy.



Keep in mind that the average "frost-free" date for our area is May 15 - and is NOT guaranteed - so hold off on those annuals and warm-weather plants! Because we can still get some cold temperatures, don't be in too big of a hurry to uncover plants or spread new mulch - it may insulate the ground and keep it from warming as quickly as it would without the mulch.

For more information, go to <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/default.asp> The site includes pictures of the plants and insects which can help in identifying specimens. I have attached pictures of the buds on the Koreanspice viburnum; an opening bloom on the same shrub (sorry it's a bit fuzzy!); and the leafing-out red rothomagensis lilac in the phenology garden at Lake Park.

Enjoy this beautiful weather!

