



We had a couple of days that felt almost like summer, didn't we! It was warm and humid, and even somewhat sunny - but not today. Alas, there is even some talk about possible frost for Saturday and Sunday nights, so we all need to pay attention to the overnight temperatures this weekend! Be prepared to bring in containers of plants or cover up tender plants already in the ground! I intend to throw a sheet over my bleeding heart tonight as it is in full bloom and I would like to enjoy it for a few more days.

Here is the data by town/zip code with the number of growing degree day units for May 13th:

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Adams Mills/43821 | 485 GDDs |
| Conesville/43811 | 472 |
| Coshocton/43812 | 442 |
| Fresno/43824 | 405 |
| Walhonding/43843 | 415 |
| Warsaw/43844 | 428 |
| W. Lafayette/43845 | 443 |

We have a range of 405 to 485 GDD units across the county, a difference of 80 units, disregarding micro-climates. The trend continues with the Adams Mills area warming up the fastest and Fresno & Walhonding staying on the chilly side. Our GDD units increased substantially this past week due to the warmer temps, from 69 to 75 units depending on the area of the county. We still are seeing as much as a week's worth of difference in bloom or emergence times from one area of the county to another.

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

- Euonymus scale, egg hatch of first generation and Vanhoutte spirea, full bloom at 406 GDD units
- Catawba rhododendron, first bloom at 407
- Miss Kim Manchurian lilac, first bloom at 422
- White fringetree, first bloom at 435
- Boxwood leafminer, adult emergence at 440
- Red Prince weigela, first bloom at 446
- Black locust, first bloom at 467
- Common ninebark, first bloom at 478

At the risk of repeating myself, one can see a practical phenology application above: watch for euonymus scale when Vanhoutte spirea is blooming!

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Sweet mock orange, first bloom at 482 GDD units
- Oystershell scale, egg hatch at 497
- Smoketree, first bloom at 501
- White fringetree, full bloom at 517
- Multiflora rose, first bloom at 548
- Emerald ash borer, adult emergence at 550
- Potato leafhopper, adult arrival at 568
- Chinese dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), first bloom at 593



Notice that the first bloom of multiflora rose coincides with the adult emergence of emerald ash borer. This can be helpful when monitoring for that insect. We certainly are seeing a lot of damaged ash trees in our area. BTW, dead ash trees tend to snap off and fall eventually; it's a good idea to be aware of them, especially where falling limbs and trunks could damage property.

Our pollinator plants are taking off - for the most part! We haven't seen the white prairie clover or the blue vervain yet, but the golden zizia is in bloom (picture included) and many others look promising. We have buds on the butterfly weed, which the Monarchs love. Other plants such as astilbe, arrowwood viburnum and Siberian iris are also in bud.

The fringe tree is blooming at the office-end of the reclaimed area and the maple-leaf viburnum is starting to bloom on the oil well side of that strip; its bloom opens in stages with a row of white blossoms opening around the edge and different-looking blossoms opening later in the center - picture below. Bachelor buttons are still in bloom and the lupine is very showy. Our Miss Kim lilac along the rail fence opened on schedule this week and looks as though it is going to be glorious when it gets to full bloom; see picture below. We are also sharing a picture of one of the columbines that opened this week.

Remember, if pruning spring-bloomers is necessary, it needs to be done very soon after the blooms fade, before buds are set for next spring; pruning too late can destroy the blooms for next year.

Last week we mentioned that folks should be on the look-out for poison ivy; it is growing quickly. Black-legged ticks never went away over the winter; those are also known as deer ticks and are the variety that can carry Lyme disease. As the weather warms, we'll also see wood or dog ticks and mosquitos, so beware!

Don't forget! The average "frost-free" date for our area is May 15 - and is NOT guaranteed! Many plants won't do well until the ground is warm enough; tomatoes and peppers fall into that category and may prefer to be planted around the first of June.

For more information on the phenology calendar and GDD units, 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.

Stay warm this weekend!



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