



Here is the phenology report for Fri., April 8. We have experienced a virtual stand-still this week due to the cooler temperatures. As a rule of thumb, GGD units only accrue when the temperature is over 50 degrees and we haven't had much of that this week! Hopefully everyone was able to cover their tender plants and they weren't damaged too badly. Our star magnolia at the phenology garden was "nipped", but not completely; there are a few blooms yet that were protected by higher branches. We're watching our rhododendron; some of the buds weren't open yet and may still be okay although many of the blossoms are "toast". However, the forecast calls for freezing temps this weekend and even some possibility of snow, so we aren't out of winter yet.

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

Adams Mills/43821	188 GDDs
Conesville/43811	185
Coshocton/43812	174
Fresno/43824	161
Walhonding/43843	161
Warsaw/43844	167
W. Lafayette/43845	175

We have a range of 161 to 188 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates. Our GDD units only increased a few degrees this past week, anywhere from 7 to 10 units depending on the area of the county. The "up" side of that is that some plants such as daffodils have kept their bloom longer this year; in fact, daffodils at the phenology garden kept their blooms for nearly 3 weeks. (Daffodils wither quickly when temps are too warm.) The "down" side is that we won't see much in the way of new blooms until the weather warms a bit; many of our existing pretty blooms have withered and turned brown in the frosty temps.

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

- Allegheny serviceberry, first bloom at 153
- PJM Rhododendron, full bloom at 178
- Common chokecherry, first bloom at 182
- Koreanspice viburnum, first bloom at 185

Events that should be occurring next are:

- 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

Eastern tent caterpillars achieve egg hatch at 92 GDDs; there are at least two tents of the little critters (about 1/4 to 3/8 inches long as of today) on a peach tree along the walkway behind the Lake Park office. We like to open up those tents and let the birds have a little feast - nature at work.



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The forecast for the work week coming up calls for more moderate temps, but still not overly warm. We were spoiled by the warmer temperatures earlier, weren't we! 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!

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 a picture of the volunteers who showed up to help at Lake Park on Clean-up Day, one of our rhododendron in partial bloom and one of the star magnolia before it got "nipped".

Stay warm this weekend!



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