



I'm a bit late with this - I'm sorry! I was out of town for several days and did not have internet service. However, our phenology committee texted some information (And a picture! Thanks, Pam!) to me about our local bloom times and since it's really easy to go to the phenology site and get the timely information, the report for April 22 is below.

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

Adams Mills/43821	303	GDDs
Conesville/43811	295	
Coshocton/43812	276	
Fresno/43824	253	
Walhonding/43843	257	
Warsaw/43844	266	
W. Lafayette/43845	278	

We have a range of 253 to 303 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates. Our GDD units increased a lot more this past week, anywhere from 75 to 91 units depending on the area of the county. The Chinese lilac ("Red Rothomagensis") in the phenology garden had its first bloom on April 18 and our coral burst crabapple achieved first bloom on April 21, right on GDD schedule.

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

- Hawthorn lace bug, adult emergence at 253 GDDs
- Flowering dogwood, first bloom at 263
- Coral burst crabapple, full bloom at 263
- Red chokecherry, first bloom at 281
- Wayfaring viburnum, full bloom at 290
- Pine needle scale, egg hatch of first generation at 305

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Vanhoutte spirea, first bloom at 309
- Common lilac, full bloom at 315
- Blackhaw viburnum, full bloom at 322
- Lilac borer, adult emergence at 330
- Common horse chestnut, full bloom at 344
- Optimal time to spray for gypsy moth, 370
- Euonymus scale, egg hatch of first generation at 406

Hostas are shooting up, as are coneflower leaves, liatris, and other perennials. I'm sure you have noticed redbuds, ornamental cherry trees and lilacs blooming. I saw some dogwoods out in western county on Sunday and I hear some are blooming in town. At the phenology garden area, we had a few blooms still open on the



PJM rhododendron and the Koreanspice viburnum is still in bloom. Our brunnera is in bloom - it looks like blue forget-me-nots, very dainty and pretty.

We've discovered 4 nests of Eastern tent caterpillars over the last couple of weeks in the phenology area; at this point, they are still very small - less than one inch. We opened the nests with a stick to expose the caterpillars and let the birds come feast on them.

Another pollinator to watch for now is the hummingbird. The "scouts" are often out at this time, checking for feeding spots. It's fine to put out a little nectar now to attract them. We like to use a 4:1 ratio of water and sugar - 1/4 cup of sugar for each cup of water. Boil the mixture, let it cool, and put it in a clean feeder to hang outside where you can see the activity. There is no need to add food coloring and always use sugar, NEVER honey or artificial sweetener. Remember to change the nectar every few days, especially if it gets cloudy in appearance and keep those feeders clean! I usually put just a 1/2 cup of nectar in each feeder at first and increase the amount as needed; the little beggars will drain the feeders more quickly as the season progresses. One note: bring in the feeder if the temps get down to freezing!

A new addition to our phenology area this week is a bee habitat for orchard or mason bees; thanks, Tony! We're hoping to get some new "tenants" that will get busy pollinating. While the discussion of pollinators often focuses on honey bees, data shows that orchard/mason bees can pollinate fruit trees at a much more efficient rate than honey bees. Here is a link for some more information:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/mason\\_bees.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/mason_bees.shtml)

This bears repeating: keep in mind that the average "frost-free" date for our area is May 15 - and is NOT guaranteed - so hold off just a little longer on those annuals and warm-weather plants (like tomatoes!!!) 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 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. Attached are pictures from our area of our first crabapple bloom; Eastern tent caterpillar nest; Koreanspice viburnum blossom; and brunnera in bloom. Have a great week!



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