



Since the growing degree day units aren't posted before the end of the day (we've been using Fridays' data), we can't give accurate numbers until the next day - perhaps next year we'll move the report date to a different day of the week so we can have our report up before the weekend! Live and learn, as they say... the report for April 29 is below.

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

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| Adams Mills/43821 | 360 | GDDs |
| Conesville/43811 | 350 | |
| Coshocton/43812 | 326 | |
| Fresno/43824 | 297 | |
| Walhonding/43843 | 304 | |
| Warsaw/43844 | 315 | |
| W. Lafayette/43845 | 328 | |

We have a range of 297 to 360 GDD units across the county, a difference of 63 units, disregarding micro-climates. Our GDD units increased moderately this past week, from 44 to 57 units depending on the area of the county. The difference in GDD units from one area of the county to another can mean a week's difference in bloom or insect emergence - somewhat amazing when one considers the size of our county! It all depends on the temperatures achieved in each area.

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

- Pine needle scale, egg hatch of first generation at 305 GDD units
- 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

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Ohio buckeye, full bloom at 374
- Holly leafminer, adult emergence at 375
- 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

The more moderate temperatures mean that our plants and insects are emerging at a less rapid pace - it's delightful because the blooms last longer and provide more visual enjoyment! It also gives us all a little more "breathing space" between emergence of pests. At Lake Park in Coshocton, we saw end-of-bloom in our Koreanspice viburnum and our red Rothomagensis lilac was in full bloom this week. The Vanhoutte spirea had lots of buds earlier this week; we'll be checking on it. Although we don't monitor bachelor's buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*) for the phenology network, they are beginning to bloom now and add color to the garden (picture below).



It is interesting to examine the data collected from year to year and see how the progress differs. The Lenten rose (*Helleborus*) opened on March 7 this year compared to April 1 last year, a difference of 24 days; the warm spell we had in March allowed the GDD units to accrue much earlier this year. However, our temperatures moderated after that and we only show 9 days difference in the first bloom of the Koreanspice viburnum; April 11 this year in comparison to April 20 last year. We all remember the lingering cold last spring - and the data shows it.

As noted above, the optimal time to spray for gypsy moth is at 370 GDDs, so keep that in mind; that time is here for parts of the county. Here some informational links to check out: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/gypsy/gypsy-index.aspx> and <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/gypsy-moth>

Garlic mustard, an invasive weed, is blooming now in many areas; pull it, cut it off, or pluck off the flowers and place the debris in the trash so the plants don't go to seed and spread. A picture of garlic mustard in bloom is attached to this report.

We've heard several reports of hummingbird "scouts" in the area - it won't be long until these fascinating creatures are draining local feeders. May and summer-like weather are just around the corner!

Last week we mentioned a new mason bee habitat in the phenology area; we've attached picture below. Time will tell if there are any new tenants. Here is a link for some more information: http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/mason_bees.shtml

Don't forget! The average "frost-free" date for our area is May 15 - and is NOT guaranteed!

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.

Happy spring!

