

September 4, 2018

Good evening!

The greeting heard most often this last week was, “Warm enough for ya?” Everyone is looking for a break in the weather, it seems, and it looks as though we should have one soon. Fall is coming – the soybeans and corn are turning color in the fields, our veggie plants are winding down, and many flowers are finished blooming.

Each zip code increased between 147 and 171 GDD units this week, significantly more than last week. We have a 296-GDD difference in range here in Coshocton County due to varying temperatures in our micro-climates. That range accounts for the differences in bloom time and insect emergence for the same species of plant or insect in different areas. Due to various periods of cooler temperatures earlier in the season, we are now behind last year’s GDDs on this date by as much as 128 in the Fresno area; however, we are 47 GDDs ahead in the Adams Mills area. Here is the current data by town/zip code and the number of growing degree day units (GDD units) in our county:

Adams Mills/43821	2743 (+171 GDDs this week)	2696 GDDs for 9/4/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2606 (+160)	2637
Coshocton/43812	2503 (+152)	2595
Fresno/43824	2447 (+147)	2575
Walhonding/43843	2497 (+152)	2586
Warsaw/43844	2501 (+152)	2591
W. Lafayette/43845	2491 (+151)	2591

There are no more phenological events listed on the Ohio Phenology Calendar. The last event listed is the Banded Ash Clearwing Borer (*Podosesia syringae*), adult emergence at 2195 GDDs. We will continue to watch some plants that are not on the network calendar for bloom span and will still monitor the pollinators that visit them. We will keep track of first bloom, end of bloom, and the corresponding GDDs for those plants and hope to be able to estimate their bloom time in the future.

The OSU Phenology Calendar is online at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp>. Plug in your zip code (or the one closest to you if your code is not in the network) along with the date and you can see what potential events have occurred in your area for past dates. There are pictures of the plants and insects listed; events are listed in the order they generally appear. Keep in mind that these are general values for each particular zip code and may vary a bit within that area.

Our local forecast for the coming week shows cooler weather with probable high temperatures in the 70’s and 80’s and low temps in the 60’s, so our GDD numbers will continue to increase at a slower rate than this past week. It looks as though we’ll have several rainy days which will be very welcome in several of our zip codes.

Still in bloom in the phenology area are: coreopsis, mountain mint, wingstem, ‘Blazing Star’ liatris, New England aster, and Autumn Joy sedum. The non-native butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) still has several blooms and is attracting butterflies and bees. These fall-blooming plants are very important for our native pollinators as they continue to need nectar for nutrition as we enter the fall season.

Berries are developing on our deciduous holly bushes now and will turn to a red color later, adding visual interest to the gardens. An interesting fact about hollies: they are “dioecious”, meaning there are separate male and female plants. It is necessary to have a male plant in the near vicinity of a female plant in order to pollinate and produce berries. The male plants do not produce berries, as shown in the photos (taken this

week) at the end of this report. Many plants are “monoecious” – that is, they have both male and female parts on one plant – and will pollinate and produce fruits by themselves.

Seeds from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) will soon be offered at the Extension office and our Master Gardener Volunteer displays. We will make the common milkweed seeds available when they mature. We continue to find monarch caterpillars on all three types of milkweed.

The information station now has fact sheets available regarding multicolored Asian lady beetles; info on ticks is still available because black-legged ticks remain active all year long. More informational markers will be installed near several of our plants this week.



Yellow-green berries are developing now on the female deciduous holly shrubs; they will be red when



There are no berries forming on this deciduous holly shrub because it is a male. It is necessary to have a male nearby so that female shrubs can be pollinated and produce berries.

