

October 2, 2018

Good evening!

We had pretty decent weather for the first part of the fair, didn't we? We hope you enjoyed it and that you stopped by our booth in the youth building and picked up some fact sheets or seeds!

As mentioned last week, we have now stopped reporting the Growing Degree Day units (GDDs) for this year. There are no more phenological events listed on the Ohio Phenology Calendar. The last event occurred at 2195 GDDs, which was several weeks ago. We have only a couple of plants that are not listed in the phenology calendar that we are watching for bloom span; we are still monitoring the pollinators that visit them. By watching the current GDD figures, we hope to be able to estimate their bloom time in the future.

A few plants that we watch in the phenology garden - smooth aster, clustered mountain mint, and coreopsis - are still in bloom but not for much longer. There are fewer visitors now as autumn settles in. We will soon have no data or photos to post, but we'll look forward to resuming these reports in the spring.

Please feel free to visit and find past data at the OSU Phenology Calendar 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. Events are listed in the order they generally appear; there are pictures of the plants and insects listed. 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 most high temperatures will be in the 70's and 80's and low temps mostly in the 60's. There is some rain in the forecast too – hopefully not as much as we've had in the past couple of weeks!

Seeds from the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) were available at our booth at the county fair – 40 packets were picked up, so we hope to see lots of them around the county next year. More seeds will be available at the Extension office. We are still waiting for the common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods to mature and will make them available as soon as we can; ours seem to be later developing than others in the county. Both of these types of seeds should be sown this fall to germinate in the spring. It is a good idea to mark where the seeds are planted – they germinate later than many other plants and can be mistaken for weeds.

Last week's report mentioned a monarch caterpillar that appeared to be ready to pupate. Master Gardener Volunteer Pam Anderson checked on it Saturday and found a perfectly formed chrysalis (photo on next page) on one of the milkweed stalks. There were a couple of other caterpillars nearby – we hope they can develop into butterflies in time to make the migration to Mexico.

We've added some fact sheets on Asian lady beetles and brown marmorated stink bugs to the boxes on the information station at Lake Park – feel free to take them. They are also available at the Extension office.

See next page for recent photos from the MGV phenology area!



The spotted cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi*) was checking out a bloom on the smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*) this week. These critters can wreak havoc on cucumbers, pumpkins, melons and squash.



Master Gardener Volunteer Pam Anderson took this picture of a monarch butterfly chrysalis at the phenology garden over the weekend.



A freshly developed monarch butterfly – hopefully it will be ready to migrate soon.

