

September 18, 2018

Good evening!

Aren't we all grateful that we haven't had as much rain as the Carolinas! Cooler weather is coming, the leaves are starting to turn color, and our gardens are winding down.

Each zip code increased between 141 and 154 GDD units this week, slightly more than last week. We have a 303-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. Interestingly, we are ahead of last year's GDDs on this date in two zip codes (as much as 146 in the Adams Mills area), virtually the same in four zip codes, and only 34 units behind in one zip code. 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	3021 (+154 GDDs this week)	2875 GDDs for 9/18/2017 (last year)
Conesville/43811	2878 (+150)	2815
Coshocton/43812	2722 (+147)	2772
Fresno/43824	2718 (+148)	2752
Walhonding/43843	2759 (+141)	2763
Warsaw/43844	2767 (+145)	2768
W. Lafayette/43845	2760 (+147)	2768

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. 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 probable high temperatures in the 60's, 70's and 80's and low temps in the 50's and 60's, so our GDD numbers will probably not increase as much. It looks as though we'll have some dry days with rain closing in at the beginning of the week.

There are a few of the late-blooming pollinator plants still producing nectar in the phenology area; our native pollinators are enjoying them as they get ready to hibernate or migrate.

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, including the MGV fair booth. Common milkweed seeds will be made available when they mature, which should be soon. There were close to two dozen monarch caterpillars on the common milkweed this week – so exciting!! We discovered several honeyvine milkweed (*Ampelamus albidus* or *Cynanchum laeve*) vines near the walkway this week; there were a half-dozen monarch caterpillars on them and a chrysalis nearby that unfortunately did not produce a viable butterfly. This plant can be confused with bind weed; it doesn't have the "milky" sap that we associate with

milkweed, but it does produce pods of seeds in the same manner. We will probably not make honeyvine seeds available because the vines can be a real problem if they become established in crop fields.

See you at the Coshocton County Fair, which is coming up soon on September 28 – October 4. Stop by our MGJV booth in the youth building for information on solitary bees and other pertinent topics!



3 monarch caterpillars were munching on the common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) along with several large milkweed bugs (the black and orange cluster of beetles on the pod).



Those two yellow bundles on the sides of this bumble bee are loads of pollen. New England asters (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) are furnishing pollen and nectar to our late-season pollinators.



Notice the black line across the lower set of wings, about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom. This is a distinguishing mark of a viceroy butterfly... looks quite a bit like a monarch, doesn't it?



Here a carpenter bee is busy gathering nectar and pollen from the 'Autumn Joy' sedum (*Hylotelephium telephium* 'Herbstfreude'). Notice the shiny abdomen, a distinguishing feature of this solitary bee.

