



Good evening!

Here is the phenology report for Fri., March 18 - blooms are popping! The forsythia at the phenology garden achieved first bloom on Monday the 14th, the earliest (by one day) that we have recorded since we started this monitoring in 2004. Our star magnolia had its first bloom on Wednesday, March 16, the second earliest. The daffodils are opening and there are a lot of sprouts! We'll see how the cooler weather this weekend affects our plants.

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

Adams Mills/43821	117 GDD
Conesville/43811	114
Coshocton/43812	106
Fresno/43824	97
Walhonding/43843	97
Warsaw/43844	101
W. Lafayette/43845	107

We have a range of 97 to 117 GDD units across the county, disregarding micro-climates, which is noticeable but not a huge difference from place to place. Keep in mind that some areas within a zip code may differ by several units, depending on the micro-climate. For example, north-facing slopes warm more slowly than south-facing slopes and altitude can make a huge difference. Our GDD units did increase significantly since last week, by anywhere from 36 units to 45. We can expect a slow-down this week with the predicted lower temps.

Some phenological events that you may be seeing now are:

- Northern Lights forsythia, full bloom at 94 GDD units
- Speckled alder, full bloom at 97
- Norway maple, first bloom at 116

Events that should be occurring next are:

- Chanticleer callery pear, first bloom at 123 GDD units
- Larch casebearer, egg hatch at 128
- Saucer magnolia, first bloom at 133
- Common flowering quince, first bloom at 134

Our Red Roth lilac is showing some leaves as is the princess-type spirea; there are leaf buds on the Van Houtte spirea.

We were able to report a couple of pollinators this week too - a fly on a forsythia bloom and an ant on the hellebore.

For more information, go to <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/default.asp>

As stated before, you will notice that the format has changed greatly, and it may take a little while to get used to it, but the information on GDDs is still there. They have included pictures of the plants and insects and there is a way to check the date over the past several years. To view the chart more similarly to the old version, just click on the button that says "View full calendar".

Stay warm this weekend! This is the reason we weren't in a hurry to uncover our "babies"...