

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

May 21, 2021

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum

Bridal wreath spirea (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*) is in full flower.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 291 (as of May 20)



Figure 1 Bridal wreath spirea (photo: John Hagstrom)

Degree Days and Rainfall

As of May 20, we have 291 base-50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2020) for this date is 219 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 5/20/21	GDD as of 5/21/20	GDD as of 5/21/15	GDD as of 5/22/14
Carbondale, IL*	582	498	677	618
Champaign, IL*	385	282	525	459
Chicago Botanic Garden	324	144	235	173.5 (5/19)
Glencoe*	133	51	No report	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	367	193	350	307
Kankakee, IL*	318	225	400	350
Lisle, IL*	364	209	No report	No report
The Morton Arboretum	291	197.5	279	234
Quincy, IL*	463	344	589	491
Rockford, IL*	294	171	270	233
Springfield, IL*	431	320	586	492
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	293	111	237	237
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	325	133	No report	No report

*We obtain most of our degree day information from the GDD Tracker from Michigan State University web site. For additional locations and daily degree days, go to <https://gddtracker.msu.edu/>

Seasonal precipitation (rain and melted snow) in inches.			
	2021	2020	average
Jan	1.5	2.14	1.952
Feb	1.49	.85	1.769
Mar	1.24	4.15	2.536
April	1.39	4.37	3.692
May	1.74 (as of 5/20)	8.24	4.194
June		4.91	4.190
July		2.87	3.893
Aug		1.1	3.802
Year to date	7.36 (as of 5/20)	11.51 (as of 4/30)	9.949 (as of 4/30)
Total (Jan-Aug)		28.63 (Jan-Aug)	26.03 (Jan-Aug)

Examples of insects that may emerge soon in northern Illinois (based on growing degree days)			
GDD (base 50)	insect	Life stage present at this GDD	Type of damage
300-700	Oystershell scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
400-600	Bronze birch borer	Adult emergence, followed by mating, egg-laying and larval hatch. (National Phenology Network predicts adult emergence will begin within the next week)	Tunneling under bark
400-600	Elm leaf beetle	First generation larvae emerging	Chewing leaves
400-600 (start) 1000-1200 (peak)	Emerald ash borer	Adults beginning to emerge (National Phenology network predict emergence will begin in about a week)	Mating and laying eggs
400-500	Pine needle scale	Crawlers emerging (National Phenology Network predicts they will emerge within a week)	Feeding on sap
500-700	Euonymus scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap

Soil temperatures around Illinois (from Illinois State Water Survey)

This information will be provided in spring and fall issues only. For more data go to <https://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/soil/> (you will need to set up an account to access data.)

Max. Soil temps For May 20, 2021*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	86.1	87.7	83.4
4-inch, bare soil	81.7	83.5	75.5
4-inch, under sod	72.2	78.4	75.8
8-inch, under sod	64.5	69.7	68.6

* This is the maximum soil temperature recorded the day prior to publication of PHCR.



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[*Bartlett Tree Experts, Plant Clinic sponsor.*](#)