

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

April 12, 2024

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is in bud and expected to flower soon.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 39.5 (as of April 11)



Degree Days

As of April 11, we have 39.5 base-50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2023) for this date is 0 GDD₅₀.

Figure 1 Redbud

Location	GDD as of 4/11/2024	GDD as of 4/13/2023	GDD as of 4/11/2019	GDD as of 4/12/2018
Carbondale, IL*	308	220	161	90
Champaign, IL*	140	111	74	30
Chicago Botanic Garden**	60.8	102	17.5 (4/10)	0 (4/11)
Glencoe*	18	39	No report	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	92	94	37	11
Kankakee, IL*	83	81	48	17
Lisle, IL*	94	87	40	12
The Morton Arboretum	39.5	53.5	17.5	9
Quincy, IL*	176	135	94	46
Rockford, IL*	54	74	27	5
Springfield, IL*	177	138	90	40
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	55	79	17	3
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	72	89	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://gdctracker.msu.edu/>. **Thank you to Elizabeth Cullison, Chicago Botanic Garden, for supplying us with this information.

Seasonal precipitation (rain and melted snow) in inches.			
	2024	2023	Historical average (1937-2023)
Jan	3.9	2.85	1.95
Feb	.56	4.88	1.81
Mar	2.64	2.29	2.53
April	2.32 (thru 4/11)	2.23	3.65
Year to date	9.42	12.25 (thru April)	9.94 (thru April)

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
100 (possibly less)	Viburnum leaf beetle	Larvae (may be feeding when leaves are half expanded)	Chewing leaves
100-200	Eastern tent caterpillar	Caterpillars	Chewing leaves
100-200	Elm flea weevil	Overwintering adults and larvae	Chewing leaves
145-200	spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth)	Caterpillars emerging	Chewing leaves
100-200	Zimmerman pine moth	Larvae emerging from overwintering sites on trunk	Tunneling into bark

Soil temperatures around Illinois (from Illinois State Water Survey)

This information will be provided all season. For data from other reporting stations, go to <https://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/soil/> (you will need to set up an account to access data.) Crabgrass does not germinate until soil temps are above 55 degrees for 5 to 7 days (use more shallow depth for this). Root growth on trees/shrubs occurs when soil temps are above 45 degrees (use deeper depth). Cicadas should begin to emerge when soil temp is 64 degrees at the 8-inch level.

Max. Soil temps For April 11, 2024*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	59.6	59.9	69.4
4-inch, bare soil	59.5	57.5	63.2
4-inch, under sod	53	58.3	60.5
8-inch, under sod	51	55.8	59.3

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



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