

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

May 9, 2024

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Bridalwreath spirea (*Spiraea x vanhouttei*) is in full bloom.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 200 (as of May 8)

Pest updates: Boxwood leafminer adults are active (time to treat). Peach leaf curl is being widely reported on peach tree (cannot be treated at this time). Oystershell scale crawlers are active (time to treat). European pine sawfly larvae are active.



Figure 1 Bridalwreath spirea

Degree Days

As of May 8, we have 200 base-50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2023) for this date is 99 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 5/8/2024	GDD as of 5/11/2023	GDD as of 5/9/2019	GDD as of 5/10/2018
Carbondale, IL*	745	508	472	387
Champaign, IL*	446	326	266	281
Chicago Botanic Garden**	No report	No report	79.5 (5/8)	123 (5/9)
Glencoe*	101	85	No report	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	350	281	154	209
Kankakee, IL*	329	262	183	230
Lisle, IL*	352	275	165	214
The Morton Arboretum	200	196.5	99	200
Quincy, IL*	496	387	314	354
Rockford, IL*	280	232	117	197
Springfield, IL*	500	364	298	330
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	246	213	89	147
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	287	241	No report	No report

*We obtain most of our degree day information from the [GDD Tracker](#) from Michigan State University web site. **Thanks 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	4.44	2.23	3.65
May	1.7 (as of 5/8)	.79	4.17
Year to date	13.24 (thru 5/8)	13.04 (thru May)	14.11 (thru May)

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
400-600	Bronze birch borer	Larvae hatching out and beginning to enter bark	Tunneling under bark
400-500	Pine needle scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
500-700	Euonymus scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
500-600	Viburnum crown borer	Caterpillars hatching and entering bark	Tunnel under bark
700-800	Bagworm	Caterpillars emerging	Chewing foliage

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.)

Max. Soil temps For May 8, 2024*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	77.5	76.9	85.7
4-inch, bare soil	77.9	72.5	77.5
4-inch, under sod	69.9	72.6	73.4
8-inch, under sod	64.8	69.6	71.9

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



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