

# Plant Health Care Report

## Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

May 24, 2024

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

### What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) is getting ready to flower (fig. 1).

**Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50):** 392 (as of May 23)

**Pest updates:** Rose slug sawflies attacking rose leaves. Magnolia scale crawlers starting to mature and ready to form their covering. Four-lined plant bugs on many perennials.



Figure 1 Japanese tree lilac

### Degree Days

As of May 23, we have 392 base-50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2023) for this date is 253 GDD<sub>50</sub>.

Location	GDD as of 5/23/2024	GDD as of 5/25/2023	GDD as of 5/23/2019	GDD as of 5/24/2018
Carbondale, IL*	1045	774	681	730
Champaign, IL*	712	568	433	592
Chicago Botanic Garden**	427	368	147 (5/22)	210.5
Glencoe*	226	133	85	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	595	446	263	348
Kankakee, IL*	571	454	306	433
Lisle, IL*	599	450	279	368
The Morton Arboretum	392	320	192.5	341.5
Quincy, IL*	776	619	473	669
Rockford, IL*	507	392	205	351
Springfield, IL*	785	592	471	665
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	429	340	173	232
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	499	381	201	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	2.21 (as of 5/23)	.79	4.17
June			
July			
Aug			
Sept			
Year to date	13.75 (thru 5/23)	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
500-700	Euonymus scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
500-600	Viburnum crown borer	Caterpillars hatching and entering bark	Tunnel under bark
700-800	<a href="#">Bagworm</a>	Caterpillars emerging	Chewing foliage
900-1200	Japanese beetle	adults	Chewing foliage; mating and laying eggs

### 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 23, 2024*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	87.8	97	83.7
4-inch, bare soil	88.8	84.6	76.6
4-inch, under sod	72.5	80.3	79.1
8-inch, under sod	67.6	74.3	74.4

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



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