

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): 41 (as of April 11)
(GDD updated 9/20/24)



Degree Days

As of April 11, we have 41 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 | 41*** | 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. ***data updated 9/20/24

| Seasonal precipitation (rain and melted snow) in inches. | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2024 data was updated on 9/20/2024 | 2024 | 2023 | Historical average (1937-2023) |
| Jan | 3.42 | 2.85 | 1.95 |
| Feb | .56 | 4.88 | 1.81 |
| Mar | 3.68 | 2.29 | 2.53 |
| April | 2.32 (thru 4/11) | 2.23 | 3.65 |
| Year to date | 9.98 (thru 4/11) | 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.*](#)