

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

April 26, 2024

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Korean spice viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*) is in full bloom.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 95 (as of April 25) (GDD updated 9/20/24)

Pest updates: Viburnum leaf beetle larvae are out and feeding on half-expanded leaves. Early-emerging cicadas up in the upper soil levels, can the main brood be far behind? Boxwood psyllid nymphs are active.



Figure 1 Korean spice viburnum

Degree Days

As of April 25, we have 95 base-50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2023) for this date is 21 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 4/25/2024	GDD as of 4/27/2023	GDD as of 4/25/2019	GDD as of 4/26/2018
Carbondale, IL*	474	332	281	173
Champaign, IL*	238	191	153	82
Chicago Botanic Garden**	120.4	160	60 (4/24)	8.5
Glencoe*	41	60	No report	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	175	161	116	24
Kankakee, IL*	162	150	120	45
Lisle, IL*	179	155	120	24
The Morton Arboretum	95***	100	65 (4/24)	19.5 (4/25)
Quincy, IL*	295	218	205	117
Rockford, IL*	127	121	89	22
Springfield, IL*	292	219	181	107
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	118	131	67	6
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	143	147	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. ***data updated 9/20/24

Seasonal precipitation (rain and melted snow) in inches.			
2024 data 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	2.65 (thru 4/25)	2.23	3.65
Year to date	10.31 (thru 4/25)	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
100-200	Eastern tent caterpillar	Caterpillars	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
300-700	Oystershell scale	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
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

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.) Root growth on trees/shrubs occurs when soil temps are above 45 degrees. Cicadas should begin to emerge when soil temp is 64 degrees at the 8-inch level (we already have some early emergers).

Max. Soil temps For April 25, 2024*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	70.7	75.2	71.4
4-inch, bare soil	69.2	67.3	64
4-inch, under sod	56.8	63.6	61
8-inch, under sod	52.9	58.5	60.7

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



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