

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

May 9, 2025

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) is in flower.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): (unavailable at this time)



Figure 1 Common lilac

Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2024) for this date at the Arboretum is 100 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 5/8/2025	GDD as of 5/8/2024	GDD as of 5/9/2019	GDD as of 5/8/2014
Carbondale, IL*	607	745	472	405
Champaign, IL*	376	446	266	277
Chicago Botanic Garden**	160	No report	79.5 (5/8)	52.5
Glencoe*	52	101	No report	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	241	350	154	127
Kankakee, IL*	253	329	183	182
Lisle, IL*	256	352	165	No report
The Morton Arboretum	No report	233.5	99	76
Quincy, IL*	430	496	314	308
Rockford, IL*	207	280	117	97
Springfield, IL*	424	500	298	302
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	133	246	89	81
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	170	287	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://gddtracker.msu.edu/>. **Thank you to Elizabeth Cullison, Chicago Botanic Garden, for supplying us with this information.

Seasonal precipitation (rain and melted snow) in inches.			
	2025	2024	Historical average (1937-2024)
Jan	.97	3.42	1.96
Feb	1.3	.56	1.8
Mar	4.59	3.68	2.55
April	3.34	4.44	3.66
May	.76 (thru 5/8)	3.73 (whole month)	4.16 (whole month)
Year to date	10.96 (thru 5/8)	12.1 (thru April)	14.13 (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
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
450	Boxwood leafminer	Adults emerging	Laying eggs
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://warm.isws.illinois.edu/warm/> (you will need to set up an account to access data.)

Max. Soil temps For May 8 2025*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	76.3	88.6	72
4-inch, bare soil	71	81.5	69.1
4-inch, under sod	62.2	73.8	66.5
8-inch, under sod	59.4	66	65

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



Copyright © 2025 The Morton Arboretum

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