

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

June 6, 2025

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Tree lilacs (*Syringa peginensis* and *Syringa reticulata*) (fig. 1) are starting to flower.

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

Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2024) for this date at the Arboretum is 452 GDD₅₀.



Figure 1 Japanese tree lilac (photo: S. Yiesla)

Location	GDD as of 6/5/2025	GDD as of 6/6/2024	GDD as of 6/6/2019	GDD as of 6/5/2014
Carbondale, IL*	1126	1354	1026	967
Champaign, IL*	813	974	763	788
Chicago Botanic Garden**	638	614.5	315 (6/5)	395.5 (6/4)
Glencoe*	171	368	196	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	537	833	492	589
Kankakee, IL*	580	818	578	639
Lisle, IL*	566	841	522	No report
The Morton Arboretum	No report	648.5	417.5	471
Quincy, IL*	870	1046	784	832
Rockford, IL*	522	727	440	494
Springfield, IL*	855	1051	797	823
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	356	639	340	467
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	418	713	384	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	1.86	3.73	4.16
June	.90 (thru 6/5)	5.29 (whole month)	4.18 (whole month)
Year to date	12.96 (thru 6/5)	21.12 (thru June)	18.3 (thru June)

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	Bagworm	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://warm.isws.illinois.edu/warm/> (you will need to set up an account to access data.)

Max. Soil temps For June 5 2025*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	75.8	83	81.9
4-inch, bare soil	70.2	78.2	82
4-inch, under sod	70.4	75.6	78.4
8-inch, under sod	65.4	70.4	74.7

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



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