

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

July 18, 2025

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Panicked hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) (fig. 1) is in flower.

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50) at the Morton Arboretum:
(1453.5 As of July 17)



Figure 1 Panicked hydrangea
(photo: John Hagstrom)

Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2024) for this date at the Arboretum is 1376 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 7/17/2025	GDD as of 7/18/2024	GDD as of 7/18/2019	GDD as of 7/17/2014
Carbondale, IL*	2325	2489	2140	2043
Champaign, IL*	1933	2023	1804	1749
Chicago Botanic Garden**	No report	1603	1164	1159 (7/16)
Glencoe*	1024	1216	899	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	1645	1881	1462	1520
Kankakee, IL*	1655	1815	1569	1543
Lisle, IL*	1693	1903	1506	No report
The Morton Arboretum	1453.5	1639.5	1350	1301.5
Quincy, IL*	1963	2156	1860	1836
Rockford, IL*	1539	1696	1369	1298
Springfield, IL*	1962	2141	1852	1800
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	1339	1583	1180	1294
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	1448	1698	1263	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	3.32	4.44	3.66
May	1.86	3.73	4.16
June	4.77	5.29	4.18
July	2.84 (thru 7/17)	4.79 (whole month)	3.96 (whole month)
Year to date	19.65 (thru 7/17)	25.91 (thru July)	22.26 (thru July)

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
1200-1800	Fall webworm	Caterpillars feeding, but webbing not seen yet	Chewing on leaves
1950	Magnolia scale	Crawlers begin to emerge	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://warm.isws.illinois.edu/warm/> (you will need to set up an account to access data.)

Max. Soil temps For July 17 2025*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	77.1	95.5	85.5
4-inch, bare soil	76.3	88.5	88.4
4-inch, under sod	77.2	86.9	84.1
8-inch, under sod	76.8	81.7	82

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



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