

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

Aug 15, 2025

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is in flower (fig. 1)

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 2207 (as of Aug 13)



Figure 1 Rose of Sharon (photo: John Hagstrom)

Degree Days and rainfall

As of Aug 13, we have 2207 base 50 growing degree days (GDD) at The Morton Arboretum. The historical average (1937-2022) for this date is 2037 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 8/14/2025	GDD as of 8/15/2024	GDD as of 8/14/2019	GDD as of 8/15/2014
Carbondale, IL*	3178	3241	2883	No issue this week
Champaign, IL*	2689	2655	2462	No issue this week
Chicago Botanic Garden**	2136 (8/12)	No report	No report	No issue this week
Glencoe*	1698	1840	1509	No issue this week
Chicago O'Hare*	2396	2540	2137	No issue this week
Kankakee, IL*	2354	2410	2204	No issue this week
Lisle, IL*	2441	2562	2185	No issue this week
The Morton Arboretum	2207(8/13)	2248.5	1970	No issue this week
Quincy, IL*	2718	2842	2559	No issue this week
Rockford, IL*	2204	2270	1991	No issue this week
Springfield, IL*	2724	2784	2533	No issue this week
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	2012	2175	1797	No issue this week
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	2147	2313	1899	No issue this week

*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 (this value has been corrected)	4.44	3.66
May	1.86	3.73	4.16
June	4.78	5.29	4.18
July	6.11	4.79	3.96
Aug	1.36 (thru 8/13)	3.44 (whole month)	3.75 (whole month)
Sept			
Year to date	24.28 (thru 8/13)	29.35 (thru Aug)	26.01 (thru Aug)

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.)

Max. Soil temps For Aug 14, 2025*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	101.4	107	83
4-inch, bare soil	89.3	94.4	91.3
4-inch, under sod	80.3	88.6	84.1
8-inch, under sod	79.2	82.5	82.1

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

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