

# Plant Health Care Report

## Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

April 24, 2026

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

Happy Arbor Day!!

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) is in flower (fig. 1)

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 201 (as of April 22)



Figure 1 Lilac

Our scouts have confirmed that European pine sawfly and viburnum leaf beetle are out and feeding. These pests were covered in our last [full newsletter](#).

Egg hatch for [spotted lantern fly](#) could begin in the next few days.

### Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2025) for this date at the Arboretum is 18 GDD<sub>50</sub>.

Location	GDD as of 4/23/2026	GDD as of 4/24/2025	GDD as of 4/23/2020	GDD as of 4/23/2015
Carbondale, IL*	652	419	219	291
Champaign, IL*	396	236	102	182
Chicago Botanic Garden**	200	95	No report	45
Glencoe*	69	27	7	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	236	156	58	111
Kankakee, IL*	297	159	74	131
Lisle, IL*	246	165	64	No report
The Morton Arboretum	201 (as of 4/22)	99	44.5	66.5
Quincy, IL*	466	281	134	236
Rockford, IL*	212	117	38	83
Springfield, IL*	468	274	128	222
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	162	84	27	56
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	187	109	34	No report

\*Information from the GDD Tracker from Michigan State University website <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.			
	2026	2025	Historical average (1937-2025)
Jan	2.33	.97	1.95
Feb	.14	1.3	1.79
Mar	5.22	4.59	2.57
April	4.31 (through 4/22)	3.32 (full month)	3.66 (full month)
Year to date	12 (thru 4/22)	10.18 (thru April)	9.97 (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
300-700	<a href="#">Oystershell scale</a>	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
400-600	<a href="#">Bronze birch borer</a>	Larvae hatching out and beginning to enter bark	Tunneling under bark
400-500	<a href="#">Pine needle scale</a>	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
450	Boxwood leafminer	Adults emerging	Laying eggs
500-700	<a href="#">Euonymus scale</a>	Crawlers emerging	Feeding on sap
500-600	<a href="#">Viburnum crown borer</a>	Caterpillars hatching and entering bark	Tunnel under bark
700-800	<a href="#">Bagworm</a>	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.) Root growth on trees/shrubs occurs when soil temps are above 45 degrees (use deeper depth).

Max. Soil temps For April 23, 2026*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	82.9	85.7	81.7
4-inch, bare soil	74	80.7	75.2
4-inch, under sod	62.2	73.7	69
8-inch, under sod	59.8	67.1	67.6

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



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