

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

May 22, 2026

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) is in full flower (fig. 1)



Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 404.5 (as of May 21)

Figure 1 Black locust (Photo: John Hagstrom)

Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2025) for this date at the Arboretum is 229 GDD₅₀.

Location	GDD as of 5/21/2026	GDD as of 5/22/2025	GDD as of 5/21/2020	GDD as of 5/21/2015
Carbondale, IL*	1045	867	498	677
Champaign, IL*	656	596	282	525
Chicago Botanic Garden**	No report	304	144	235
Glencoe*	174	102	51	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	449	388	193	350
Kankakee, IL*	512	422	225	400
Lisle, IL*	464	411	209	No report
The Morton Arboretum	404.5	280.5	197.5	279
Quincy, IL*	774	652	344	589
Rockford, IL*	423	361	171	270
Springfield, IL*	770	642	320	586
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	329	237	111	237
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	372	287	133	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	5.32	3.32	3.66
May	1.18 (thru 5/21)	1.86 (full month)	4.14 (full month)
Year to date	14.19 (thru 5/21)	12.04 (thru May)	14.10 (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
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 21, 2026*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	65.7	79.4	74.5
4-inch, bare soil	62.8	75	72.1
4-inch, under sod	60.9	71	69.9
8-inch, under sod	61.8	66.8	69.2

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



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