

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

June 19, 2026

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

Catalpa (*Catalpa* species) is in full flower (fig. 1)



Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 906.5 (as of June 18)

Figure 1 Catalpa (photo: John Hagstrom)

Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2025) for this date at the Arboretum is 704 GDD₅₀.

| Location | GDD as of 6/18/2026 | GDD as of 6/19/2025 | GDD as of 6/18/2020 | GDD as of 6/18/2015 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Carbondale, IL* | 1712 | 1473 | 1162 | 1348 |
| Champaign, IL* | 1262 | 1121 | 901 | 1147 |
| Chicago Botanic Garden** | No report | 957 | 658 | 615.5 |
| Glencoe* | 500 | 360 | 417 | No report |
| Chicago O'Hare* | 989 | 826 | 754 | 876 |
| Kankakee, IL* | 1071 | 874 | 811 | 940 |
| Lisle, IL* | 1021 | 863 | 787 | No report |
| The Morton Arboretum | 906.5 | 668 | 766 | 734.5 |
| Quincy, IL* | 1397 | 1160 | 978 | 1216 |
| Rockford, IL* | 957 | 805 | 727 | 747 |
| Springfield, IL* | 1396 | 1153 | 963 | 1210 |
| Waukegan, IL* (60087) | 791 | 612 | 599 | 661 |
| Waukegan, IL* (60085) | 862 | 689 | 642 | 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 | 1.78 | 1.86 | 4.14 |
| June | 5.97 (thru 6/18) | 4.77 (full month) | 4.19 (full month) |
| Year to date | 20.76 (thru 6/18) | 16.81 (thru June) | 18.29 (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 |
| 900-1200 | Japanese beetles | Adults | Chewing foliage; mating and laying eggs |
| Possibly 1200-1300 | Viburnum leaf beetles | Adults emerging | Chewing on leaves |
| 1200-1800 | Fall webworm | Caterpillars feeding, but webbing not seen yet | Chewing on leaves |

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 18, 2026* | St. Charles reporting station (north) | Champaign reporting station (central) | Carbondale reporting station (south) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2-inch, bare soil | 72.5 | 80.8 | 92.6 |
| 4-inch, bare soil | 69.7 | 78.6 | 86.8 |
| 4-inch, under sod | 71.4 | 76.9 | 83 |
| 8-inch, under sod | 69.5 | 72.5 | 79.8 |

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



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