

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

July 17, 2026

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

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

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 1549.5 (as of July 15)



Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2025) for this date at the Arboretum is 1350 GDD₅₀.

Figure 1 Panicked hydrangea
(Photo: John Hagstrom)

Location	GDD as of 7/16/2026	GDD as of 7/17/2025	GDD as of 7/16/2020	GDD as of 7/16/2015
Carbondale, IL*	2492	2325	1965	2133
Champaign, IL*	1972	1933	1653	1768
Chicago Botanic Garden**	No report	No report	No report	1089
Glencoe*	1060	1024	1042	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	1695	1645	1503	1348
Kankakee, IL*	1758	1655	1538	1493
Lisle, IL*	1735	1693	1545	No report
The Morton Arboretum	1549.5 (7/15)	1453.5	1485.5	1243.5
Quincy, IL*	2140	1963	1734	1875
Rockford, IL*	1618	1539	1428	1231
Springfield, IL*	2124	1962	1713	1853
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	1434	1339	1287	1155
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	1527	1448	1345	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	8.05	4.77	4.19
July	6.19 (thru 7/16)	6.11 (whole month)	3.98 (whole month)
Year to date	29.03 (thru 7/16)	22.92 (thru July)	22.27 (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
1934	Spotted lanternfly	Adult emergence	Feeding on sap; honeydew in large quantities
1950	Magnolia scale	Crawlers <u>begin</u> 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 16, 2026*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	86.7	95.8	93.3
4-inch, bare soil	79.9	93.4	87.4
4-inch, under sod	82.6	88.4	83.8
8-inch, under sod	80.1	83.5	82.5

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



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