

Plant Health Care Report

Scouting Report of The Morton Arboretum

July 31, 2026

Growing Degree Day/Weather issue

What indicator plant is in bloom at the Arboretum?

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

Accumulated Growing Degree Days (Base 50): 1885.5 (as of July 30)



Degree Days

The historical average (1937-2025) for this date at the Arboretum is 1692 GDD₅₀.

Figure 1 Panicked hydrangea
(Photo: John Hagstrom)

Location	GDD as of 7/30/2026	GDD as of 7/31/2025	GDD as of 7/30/2020	GDD as of 7/30/2015
Carbondale, IL*	2900	2759	2395	2559
Champaign, IL*	2305	2316	2024	2146
Chicago Botanic Garden**	No report	No report	1794	1420
Glencoe*	1369	1340	1404	No report
Chicago O'Hare*	2028	2009	1882	1834
Kankakee, IL*	2074	2003	1884	1857
Lisle, IL*	2067	2056	1920	No report
The Morton Arboretum	1885.5	1799	1839.5	1587.5
Quincy, IL*	2531	2350	2134	2266
Rockford, IL*	1945	1872	1779	1567
Springfield, IL*	2488	2352	2094	2245
Waukegan, IL* (60087)	1753	1660	1645	1512
Waukegan, IL* (60085)	1851	1784	1712	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	8.31 (thru 7/30)	6.11 (whole month)	3.98 (whole month)
Year to date	31.15 (thru 7/30)	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 31, 2026*	St. Charles reporting station (north)	Champaign reporting station (central)	Carbondale reporting station (south)
2-inch, bare soil	92.8	100.1	96.8
4-inch, bare soil	89	94.8	89.1
4-inch, under sod	76.8	86.1	83.1
8-inch, under sod	74.6	80.9	81.5

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



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