

Phenology Garden

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers Learning Center for Gardening



Phenology is the study of recurring, seasonal biological events and their relation to weather. Examples of such phenological events include bird migration, autumn leaf color, insect emergence and bud burst. Historically, phenology has been used to plan when to gather fruits and berries as they ripen and predict animal migrations for hunting. Today, we use phenology to study climate change, predict pest emergence, and design gardens with continuous color and season-long interest.

WHAT GROWS HERE

There are more than 30 phenology gardens across the state that are replicate gardens. They each contain the same species of plants to ensure that data can be compared from garden to garden.

Herbaceous perennials:

- Japanese anemone
- butterfly weed
- false indigo
- cheddar pink,
- leopardbane
- purple coneflower
- perennial geranium
- Lenten rose
- daylily 'Raspberry pixie'
- sedum Autumn joy
- Siberian iris
- bee balm
- beardtongue
- garden phlox
- hybrid sage

Woody ornamentals:

- redosier dogwood
- cutleaf elderberry 'lacinata'
- Manchurian lilac 'Miss Kim'
- common lilac 'President Grevy' 'Charles Joly'
- oakleaf hydrangea
- Koreanspice viburnum
- arrowwood viburnum Autumn jazz
- weigela 'Red Prince'
- star magnolia 'Royal Star'
- crabapple Coralburst™
- potentilla 'Abbotswood'
- PJM rhododendron
- bumald spirea 'Goldflame'
- Vanhoutte spirea
- Rose-of-Sharon 'Blushing Bride'

Additional natives:

- blue giant hyssop
- white prairie clover
- rattlesnake master
- common boneset
- Joe pye weed
- wild bergamot
- clustered mountainmint
- pinnate prairie coneflower
- swamp verbena
- Culver's root
- golden zizia

HOW WE GROW IT

One tool that gardeners can use to predict the growth and development of plants over time is growing degree days (GDD). The GDD tracks the accumulation of heat above the minimum threshold temperature that a specific plant needs to grow (or an insect needs to hatch). The Ohio State University provides an online phenology calendar for home gardeners that includes daily information about what is blooming and hatching in your area, along with the number of growing degree days. By entering your zip code, you can find updates on this website: <https://weather.cfaes.osu.edu/gdd/>

Resources

<https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/phenology>

<https://www.delcomga.org/calendars/phenology-growing-degree-days>



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