

Phenology

2015

April, 2015

Volume 1 Number 1

Introduction:

Hi, welcome to the first issue of '*Phenology*'. For those unfamiliar with the term, Phenology, is an observational science that has been with us in one form or another for thousands of years. A combination of two Greek words *phaino*, meaning "to appear, to come into view" and *logos*, meaning "to study," the term was introduced by the Belgian botanist, Charles Morren, in the mid 19th century. Several definitions can be found online. This one is my take on the word: A scientific study by observation of periodic events relating to plants and animals as affected by climate.

Our study monitors the emergence of perennials and the effect climate change has on their yearly bloom cycle.

Perennial blooms are a small part of a much larger picture. Each year many organizations, groups and individuals contribute to hundreds of studies, projects and research endeavors. These studies allow scientists, universities, physicians, farmers, civic organizations and governments to monitor our environment and determine the far reaching effects of climate change.

When to plant veggies:

The following are examples of how we too can utilize phenological information:

The common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) is often cited during its yearly lifecycle, as a reference for planting vegetables.

- When the first lilac leaves appear: plant Spinach, beets, cabbage family, carrots, lettuce
- When lilacs leaf out: plant Collards, broccoli and brussel sprouts.
- When lilacs are in full bloom: plant Squash, beans and cucumbers

Other indicators:

- Tomatoes can be set out when lily-of-the-valley is in full bloom.
- Cabbage for spring: Plant spring cabbage in fall when mock orange is in full bloom.

Some other popular uses for Phenology:

- Pollen count given on the nightly news.
- Planning of Maple sap harvests

Data gathering:

The new season has begun and we are off to a good start with 23 contributions to the study. It is encouraging, after a exceedingly long winter, to see the blooms march northward.

Again, as last year, entries will be placed in the 2015 phenology/baseline spreadsheet located here:

[2015 Spreadsheet](#)

Unique elements of this study, **deltas**(differences in blooms from one year to the next) and **baselines** (same species in two different gardens given as days between blooming), will again be recorded for member reference.

* * * * *

Around the world:

Many studies around the world conduct similar fact gathering exercises.

USA :

<https://www.usanpn.org>

Canada:

<https://www.naturewatch.ca/plantwatch/>

UK:

<http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk>

Ireland: <https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/phenology/>

Europe/EU:

<http://www.pep725.eu>

Netherlands:

<http://www.natuurkalender.nl>

Australia:

<http://www.climatewatch.org.au>

Till next month when we will look at growing degree days, thank you for your participation and keep watching our exciting world.

Jerry