

Phenology calendar & data summary

Itasca County, Minnesota

Phenology is the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals, and how those changes relate to climate. When you take note of nature’s calendar, by writing down your observations and wondering how it’s all connected, you’re thinking about phenology. Oftentimes, the concept of phenology is easiest to understood through examples, and several are listed in the grid below.

This calendar was made with historical records from Itasca County. (For information on the source of records, see seasonwatch.umn.edu/orientation-center#data-collectors.) What species and seasonal changes will you notice in your local environment throughout the year? Explore the Season Watch website (seasonwatch.umn.edu) for resources and ideas. Enjoy tracking nature’s cycles in Minnesota!



Season Watch is a collaboration between Northern Community Radio and the University of Minnesota. Funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.



Average date	Phenological event In other words, “Which plant or animal can be seen doing what?”	Earliest date on record	Latest date on record	The average, earliest, and latest dates are based on:	Find out more, including how to make your own phenology observations
April 15	Common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) flowering	March 13	May 21	27 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-dandelion
April 15	Wood frog (<i>Rana sylvatica</i>) first heard	March 21	May 6	30 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/wood-frog
April 23	American tamarack (<i>Larix laricina</i>) leaf buds breaking	March 28	May 12	28 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/american-tamarack
May 1	Quaking aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) leaf buds break	April 2	May 17	33 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/quaking-aspen
July 1	Common milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) flowering	June 3	July 21	28 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-milkweed
September 29	Quaking aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) all leaves colored	September 20	October 11	29 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/quaking-aspen
October 10	American tamarack (<i>Larix laricina</i>) all leaves colored	September 23	October 26	31 records Collected from 1984 to 2016	seasonwatch.umn.edu/american-tamarack