

Phenology calendar & data summary

Ramsey 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 Ramsey 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!



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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
March 31	Red elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>) leaf buds breaking	March 4	April 20	51 records collected from 1941 to 1991	seasonwatch.umn.edu/red-elderberry
April 12	American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>) flowering	March 20	May 3	51 records collected from 1941 to 1991	seasonwatch.umn.edu/american-elm
April 15	Common lilac (<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>) leaf buds breaking	March 23	May 4	51 records collected from 1941 to 1991	seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-lilac
April 24	Bur oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>) leaf buds breaking	April 5	May 31	53 records collected from 1941 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/bur-oak
April 27	American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>) leaf buds breaking	April 10	May 15	51 records collected from 1941 to 1991	seasonwatch.umn.edu/american-elm
April 29	Quaking aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) leaf buds breaking	April 10	May 16	50 records collected from 1941 to 2012	seasonwatch.umn.edu/quaking-aspen
May 12	Common lilacs (<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>) at full flower	April 25	May 26	51 records collected from 1941 to 1991	seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-lilac