

# Phenology calendar & data summary

## Washington 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 understand through examples, and several are listed in the grid below.

This calendar was made with historical records from Washington County. (For information on the source of records, see [seasonwatch.umn.edu/orientation-center#data-collectors](http://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](http://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
May 1	Common dandelion ( <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> ) first flower	April 9	May 17	18 records collected from 1998 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-dandelion">seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-dandelion</a>
May 5	Wild strawberry ( <i>Fragaria vesca</i> ) first flower	April 16	May 24	18 records collected from 1998 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/virginia-strawberry">seasonwatch.umn.edu/virginia-strawberry</a> ( <i>F. virginiana</i> , which is closely related to wild strawberry)
June 4	Prairie rose ( <i>Rosa arkansana</i> ) first flower	May 19	June 17	19 records collected from 1997 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/prairie-rose">seasonwatch.umn.edu/prairie-rose</a>
June 24	Common milkweed ( <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> ) first flower	June 1	July 3	18 records collected from 1997 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-milkweed">seasonwatch.umn.edu/common-milkweed</a>
July 11	Wild bergamot ( <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> ) first flower	June 28	July 29	19 records collected from 1997 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/wild-bergamot">seasonwatch.umn.edu/wild-bergamot</a>
July 23	Goldenrod species (genus <i>Solidago</i> ) first flower	July 8	August 5	18 records collected from 1997 to 2015	<a href="http://seasonwatch.umn.edu/canada-goldenrod">seasonwatch.umn.edu/canada-goldenrod</a>