



FRESHWATER

PROTECT WATER IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Reduce pollution coming from your yard

- 💧 Use native plants when you can.
- 💧 Reduce or eliminate fertilizers and pesticides.
- 💧 Limit the amount of lawn or turf areas.
- 💧 Sweep up clippings and debris from sidewalks.
- 💧 In winter, use less salt on your sidewalks and driveway.

Capture stormwater

- 💧 Direct rain gutters to your lawn or other garden areas.
- 💧 Replace hard surfaces with paths that absorb water.
- 💧 Install a rain barrel.

MAY PHENOLOGY

Jim Gilbert's Nature Notes

First week of May

The landscape has an emerald look, layered with tones of new green from grasses, and newly emerged leaves from deciduous trees and shrubs. Rose-breasted grosbeaks, ruby-throated hummingbirds and chimney swifts return. Also, look for the first Baltimore orioles coming from their winter homes in Costa Rica and other parts of Central America. With a strong homing instinct, they often come back year after year to nest in the same yard. Statewide, farmers plant field corn, sweet corn, soybeans, sugar beets, potatoes and spring wheat. Enchanting wails, yodeling and quavering laughter fill the air when common loons return to many central and northern Minnesota lakes.

May 5, 2023, was ice-out for Mille Lacs Lake, Otter Tail Lake, Lake Itasca, Lake Bemidji, and Upper Red Lake.

Second week of May

Colonies of common dandelions bloom. Notice shade in deciduous forests. It's blooming time for the common purple lilac in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Watch for the first migrating monarch butterflies to appear, and for apple orchards to be in bloom. Listen for the very vocal American toads, common tree frogs and boreal chorus frogs. In northern Minnesota, marsh marigolds are blooming, quaking aspens have small leaves, and ruby-throated hummingbirds and ovenbirds return.

May 12, 2023, was peak bloom for tulips at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where 40,000 bulbs were planted the previous fall. May 16 was peak of bloom for the Arboretum's crabapple collection.

Third week of May

We now expect to see many southern Minnesota farm fields with rows of tiny corn and soybean plants. Red-eyed vireos arrive and start singing in forests. Baltimore oriole females begin weaving hanging nests. Black-capped chickadees are busy feeding young nestlings, and newly hatched mallard ducklings are swimming with their mothers. Young gray squirrels leave their nests.

May 18, 2023, was the last ice-out of the year for a Minnesota lake – Greenwood Lake in northeastern Cook County.

On May 19, 2023, common purple lilac shrubs were still blooming, and morel mushroom hunting was good. We again experienced a hazy sky caused from wildfires in Alberta and other areas north and west of Minnesota.

Fourth week of May

Warbling vireos, gray catbirds and house wrens fill the air with their vocalizations. Purple martins and barn swallows build nests. Green frogs begin calling. White-tailed deer fawns are arriving. Northern Lights azaleas, American highbush cranberry, bridal wreath spirea shrubs and black locust trees are all blooming with showy flowers. White Dutch clover, red clover and yellow sweet clover begin to bloom. Gardeners harvest leaf lettuce, radishes and green onions. Evergreen such as yews, firs and spruces display new bright-green growth on the tips of branches. In northern Minnesota, moose calves are being born.

LOOK FOR ...



First monarch butterfly arrives (Carver County)

2023	May 15
2022	May 10
2021	May 21
2020	May 25
2019	May 26
2018	May 18
2017	May 14
2016	May 24
2015	June 1
2014	May 21



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