



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

Expect the first migrating Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks and ruby-throated hummingbirds to arrive. Get your feeders out. Listen to house wrens singing and American toads trilling. American robin eggs are hatching.

In southern Minnesota, colonies of wild plum trees have showy white flowers, and the first jack-in-the-pulpits are up and open. Many deciduous trees are leafing out, showing beautiful tones of green in urban and native forests.

In northern Minnesota, quaking aspens start to leaf out and spring peepers call, as lakes continue to lose their ice sheets.

Second week of May

At the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the crabapple tree collection, tulip gardens and eastern redbud trees should be blooming.

About 28 percent of people in Minnesota fish; if you are one, wear a life jacket. Lake and river water temperatures are usually still around 50 degrees.

Baltimore orioles are very vocal. In marsh areas, new green cattail leaves are up about a foot. Ohio buckeye trees are at bloom peak. Many Minnesota and Wisconsin farmers are working the soil and planting.

May 12, 2024: Lily-of-the-valley and common purple lilac had fragrant flowers. First migrating monarch butterflies arrived; they began leaving their wintering sites in Michoacan, Mexico about February 20. The Twin Cities had a high temperature of 88 degrees on this Mother's Day.

Third week of May

At close to 4:30 a.m., American robins start singing. Red pines begin shedding pollen that is carried through the air as it warms up. Old fashioned bridal wreath spirea shrubs are at bloom peak, resembling white fountains. Northern Lights azaleas are flowering at their best.

Black-capped chickadee eggs are hatching, after about 12 days of incubation. These young chickadees leave the nest 14 to 18 days after hatching. It's about time to experience the first bothersome mosquitoes.

In northern Minnesota, moose calves are being born and opening balsam poplar buds perfume the air.

May 22, 2024: A tiny young colt about 6 inches tall was seen in field near Kilkenney, standing by tall sandhill crane parents.

Fourth week of May

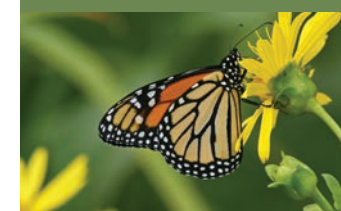
Double peonies and tall bearded irises are in bloom and very showy. Wild grape vines bloom with tiny fragrant flowers in clusters.

Many snapping and painted turtles come up on dry land to dig nests and lay eggs. Once the turtles finish egg laying, they leave the sites and don't return. One could spray the top of the fresh soil with insect repellent to help keep raccoons from finding the eggs and eating them. The eggs won't hatch for about three months.

Trumpeter swan eggs have begun hatching after about 33 days of incubation by the female only. The young cygnets leave the nest soon after hatching and stay with their parents until the following spring. Wood duck young begin jumping from nest boxes and tree cavities.

Throughout the state, white-tailed deer fawns start arriving. Most fawns are born in late May and early June after a gestation period of 196 to 213 days. At birth, fawns weigh about seven pounds.

LOOK FOR ...



First monarch butterfly arrives (Carver County)

2024	May 12
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



KRAIG KELSEY | BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE NEST | WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN

