



SPECIAL PULL OUT SECTION

Phenology is the study of seasonal natural phenomena. For plants, this can include when they initiate growth, start flowering, ripen seeds, become dormant, etc. Phenology data for invasive plants is critical information for the development of effective management programs and timing of control treatments.

This calendar summarizes phenology data of invasive plant species in southern, central, and northern Illinois. The calendar was developed based upon observations and reports from the University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program. Phenology calendars are useful for planning and scheduling but cannot replace on-the-ground scouting. Be sure to check phenology of invasive plants before applying treatments to ensure proper application timing.

Using phenology data to inform invasive plant management:

- Chemical treatments to annual or biennial plants should be applied before the plants start flowering.
- Once annual or biennial plants have fruit forming, the most effective control measure is mechanically removing the plant, making sure to remove the fruits/

seeds from the area. When the fruit start to mature and fall off of the plant, mechanical treatments should be halted.

- When fruit mature on some invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass, and Japanese chaff flower, care should be taken to avoid accidentally spreading the seeds of these plants.
- Chemical treatments on woody invasive plants should not be applied after bud swell/bud break until the plants have reached full leaf expansion.
- Foliar chemical treatments should be applied to healthy, green, actively-growing foliage. When the foliage starts to turn its fall color, then foliar treatments are not effective.

Phenology Calendar

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Musk thistle	N	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	C	*	*	*	*								
	S	*	*	*	*								
Oriental bittersweet	N												
	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Poison hemlock	N												
	C												
	S												
Princesstree	N												
	C												
	S												
Purple loosestrife	N												
	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reed canarygrass	N												
	C												
	S												
Sericea lespedeza	N												
	C												
	S												
Sweet clover	N												
	C												
	S												
Teasel	N												
	C												
	S												
Tree of Heaven	N												
	C												
	S												
Wild parsnip	N												
	C												
	S												
Winged burning bush	N	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wintercreeper	N	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	S	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

† - Fruit of the other bush honeysuckle species mature 6-8 weeks earlier

- * - No data
- - Dormant
- - New Germinates
- - Rosette
- - Bud swell
- - Bud break
- - Leaf Emergence
- - Vegetative Growth
- - Bolting
- - Flower bud
- - Flower
- - Seed/Fruit Immature
- - Seed/Fruit Mature
- - Leaf color/senescence

N- Northern, C- Central, S- Southern

Note: Some species not included in calendar due to insufficient phenology data