

Phenological Gardens

Field Guide

Task

To record when the phenophases occur for each shrub in your phenology garden

What You Need

[Phenological Garden Data Sheet](#)

Tape measure or meter stick

Pencil or pen

In the Field

1. Examine each shrub.
2. For each shrub, record the dates of the three phenophases. Keep separate records of these dates for each shrub. The three phenophases in order are:

BF = Beginning of flowering: This phase occurs when at least 3 places on the plant the first flowers have opened completely.

- Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis x Intermedia* 'Jelena', *Hamamelis virginiana* 'genuine'): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.

- Lilac (*Syringa x chinensis* 'Red Rothomagensis'): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.

- Mock-orange (*Philadelphus coronarius* 'genuine'): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.

- Forsythia (*Forsythia suspense*): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.

- Heather (*Calluna vulgaris* both 'Allegro' and 'Long White'): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.

- Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*): The flower is considered open only when the outer leaves have spread and the stamens are visible.

GF = General flowering: This phase occurs when more than 50% of the flowers are open.

EF = End of flowering: This phase occurs when about 95% of all flowers have died or fallen off.

Additionally for lilacs and forsythia:

LU = Beginning of leaf unfolding: The first regular surfaces of leaves become visible in about 3 on the observed plant. The first leaf of a plant has pushed out of the bud up to its leaf stalk.

FL = Full leaves: This phase occurs when about 95% of all leaves are unfolded.

3. In the autumn, measure the height of each plant except snowdrops. This is done once a year only.
4. If plants are watered or pruned, record each date.
5. If fertilizer is used, record date of application and type of fertilizer.

Note: It is important to report if a plant appears to be in poor health