

July Phenology

a reflective look at 2009

by Jim Gilbert



1 First Canada thistle seedheads opening. 'Stella de Oro' daylily at bloom peak. Hostas have begun flowering. First ripe fruit on garden raspberry canes and blueberry shrubs. Red mulberry trees full of fruit.

3 First annual cicada heard buzzing.

4 Hollyhocks begin blooming. Field corn averages 5' tall in many fields.

6 At 4:34 a.m. birds begin to sing; American Robins first. Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers and others are eating the bright red fruit from the native scarlet elderberry shrubs.

9 Wheat fields turning golden-brown. Wild blackcap raspberries are ripe.

11 First field corn tasseling in the Waconia area. Corn plants up as tall as 7' now. Young Baltimore Orioles come to grape jelly feeders with their parents. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Orchard Orioles, Gray Catbirds, House Finches and Red-bellied Woodpeckers also enjoy jelly feeders.

13 Gardeners dig first potatoes and harvest first yellow beans and celery.

15 Bird songs have decreased dramatically. Now in mid-July the nesting season is over for most species and they no longer need to claim territories. American Goldfinches are nest building. Eastern Bluebirds check-out nesting boxes for their second broods.

16 First flying Carolina grasshopper on the wing.

17 Most lawns are dry and tan-brown. Water levels are way down in ponds and other wetlands. We sure could use rain!

18 First locally-grown sweet corn available. First ripe full-size garden tomatoes.

19 Birds and some of us humans continue to feast on wild blackcap raspberries and red mulberries. Garden raspberry picking is very good. In the Lutsen/Tofte area, wild strawberries and dewberries can be picked.

21 The rains came! About 1.5 inches fell on the Twin Cities area. Perennial flower gardens are beautiful and blooming species include Russian sage, monarda, phlox and purple coneflower.

25 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are sipping nectar from hosta flowers. Fireflies are still numerous. Wild gooseberries are ripe.

27 Wild cucumber begins blooming. Farmers combine oats.

28 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails and Monarch Butterflies are feeding on the fragrant flowers of the common milkweed.

31 Giant sunflowers bloom in gardens. Spotted touch-me-not has just started flowering in wetlands (a favorite nectar source for hummingbirds). The surface water temperature of Green Lake at Spicer is 76 degrees F.



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