



# July

## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

Naturalist Jim Gilbert's observations from this time last year, plus a seasonal checklist of backyard tasks.

JUL  
01

Garden raspberries are ripe and ripening. The first wild blackcap raspberries are ripe and delicious. Canada thistle commences shedding seeds on thistle down. It's the perfect time to head to Grand Marais to experience the fragrance and beauty of common purple lilacs.

JUL  
02

Native basswood trees attain bloom peak. A first-of-the-year annual cicada buzzes. Green frogs call like like banjo pickers during the day and at night.

JUL  
03

**American Goldfinches** begin eating wild Canada thistle seeds. **Baltimore Orioles** introduce their young to grape jelly and mealworm feeders. Deer flies irritate. Hollyhocks start blooming.



JUL  
04

Much field corn is four feet tall. From southern to northern Minnesota—and in the right habitats (wetlands, wet ditches, tall grassy spots, old fields, and forest edges)—fireflies light the night skies with tiny fireworks.

JUL  
06

The first **Purple Martin** young fledge. It's our seventh day this year with an air temperature of 90°F or above. Lake Waconia surface water temperature (down one foot in at least five feet of water) is 76°F, a typical reading for other southern and central MN lakes.

JUL  
07

A **Pileated Woodpecker** pair brings their young to a suet feeder. Many **Eastern Bluebirds** lay their second clutches of eggs. **Tree Swallow** parents and their young line up on utility wires; they only nest once each year.

JUL  
08



**House Wrens** continue to be very vocal. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** young fledge. Adults sip nectar from garden flowers like hosta blossoms and phlox and continue coming to sugar water feeders. Dragonflies of several species zip through our yards. Some corn in southern MN is over 6 feet tall.

JUL  
10

The first garden green beans are ready to pick.

JUL  
12

The first locally grown sweet corn is available. Farmers cut the first batch of the third crop of alfalfa.



- ☐ Stock up on beautiful, bird-themed **puzzles** for those lazy summer days!
- ☐ Orioles feed their young caterpillars and larvae. Help them out by offering **live mealworms** or **dried mealworms** soaked in nectar.
- ☐ Attract cardinals by using a **Quick Clean Big Tube feeder** with U-shaped rounded perches, which allow the cardinals to face directly forward to the food. This feeder holds three pounds of seed and is easy to clean!

- ☐ Prevent seed loss due to bill-sweeping behavior by using a **Hanging Seed Cylinder feeder** with **Mr. Bird seed cylinders**. No loose seed to scatter!



- ☐ The **Fly-Through Suet and Seed Cake Feeder** filled with **Insect & Hot Pepper Suet** and **Flaming Hot Feast seed cakes** feeds chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers without feeding squirrels!
- ☐ Avoid mess and seed germination in your garden and patio areas by using **Kracker Jax** or **Medium Chips** (sunflower out of the shell). Both work great in window feeders as well.
- ☐ Plant sunflowers from seed July 1st to provide blooms into the fall. Songbirds will eat from the mature seed heads.
- ☐ Bluebirds may nest 2-3 times in the same bird house. Check bluebird boxes and remove the old nest and debris between nestings.
- ☐ Our **Feed and Fill service** will take care of your birds while you are on vacation. Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 for more details.

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## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

(Continued from front)

JUL  
13

Farmers begin corn tasseling and silking. Common milkweed blooms with clusters of fragrant flowers.

JUL  
15

The first Carolina grasshoppers take flight. Northsky and Northblue varieties of garden blueberry shrubs—both U of MN introductions in 1981—continue to have ripe and ripening fruit. Blooming garden perennials now include: daylilies, liliun, hydrangeas, Russian sage, purple coneflower, clematis, roses, and liatris.

JUL  
16



Numerous young birds come to feeding stations, including: juvenile **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** for black oiler sunflower seeds; young **chickadees** for dried mealworms, sunflower chips, peanuts, and black oilers; young **House Finches** for grape jelly and black oilers.

JUL  
19

Ox-eye, monarda, gray-headed coneflower, cup plant, big bluestem grass, and many more plants are blooming on prairies. Purple loosestrife just now begins blooming in wet ditches.

JUL  
20

The First **Canada Geese** fly. Adults have been flightless since their June molt and their young are also testing new flight feathers. The U of MN Landscape Arboretum daylily collection is at overall bloom peak

JUL  
22

The first wild cucumber bloom. Shorebirds migrate through the Twin Cities metro area. Sungold and Moongold apricots are ripe and falling. Fireflies are still quite numerous. In the Lutsen/Grand Marais area, fireweed is blooming, juvenile red squirrels and flying squirrels visit feeding stations, and blueberry picking is good along parts of the Gunflint Trail.

JUL  
23

Wild strawberries, blueberries and serviceberries are ripe in the Ely area.

JUL  
25

Field corn is pollinating throughout southern MN and western WI. Farmers harvest their third crop of alfalfa.

JUL  
27

**Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, and **Baltimore Orioles** come to sugar water feeders.



JUL  
29

A good share of MN and WI lakes are at or above 80°F now.

JUL  
30



Monarch butterflies deposit eggs on milkweeds. Wild choke cherry fruit is ripe.

☐ Bluebirds seem to prefer live mealworms. Our stores have **mealworm feeders** and **live mealworms** in stock to feed your blue beauties.

☐ Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird, nesting in July and fledging young in August. Attract more goldfinches with **The Best Nest Builder** nesting material.

☐ Unlike most songbirds, goldfinches feed their young a slurry of seed such as **Nyjer™** and **Chips**. Keep your feeders clean and full to attract them.

☐ Remember—most fledglings do not need human assistance. Adult birds are nearby and will return to feed the young after you leave the area.

☐ Additional birdbaths will help birds beat the heat in your backyard. Use a **Layered Rock Waterfall** or **Water Wiggler** in your birdbath. Moving water attracts more birds and prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs in stagnant water.



☐ **Mint extract** on nectar ports helps to repel bees, wasps and bald-faced hornets. Hanging the feeder from an **ant trap** prevents ants from reaching the nectar.

☐ Clean baths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach; rinse well; then add **Birdbath Protector** to keep the bath clean.

☐ Create a feeding area just for beneficial Blue Jays. Hang an **in-shell peanut feeder** under a baffle from a tree branch or on a pole with a squirrel baffle and place the feeder well away from other feeders.