



PLANT PHENOLOGY PROJECT: Observe, Record & Submit Data

INSTRUCTIONS:

Refer to the following definitions to help you record the information on the data-sheets. Every plant you observe should have its own data-sheet; use as many data-sheets as you need.

LEAVES

Breaking leaf bud- A leaf bud is considered breaking once a green leaf tip is visible at the end of the bud, but before the first leaf has unfolded to expose the leaf stalk. For intensity, select 4-5 stems on the plant and determine what percentage of the leaf buds on each stem have broken.

Increasing leaf size- Plant leaves take up to 3 weeks following bud-break to reach their full size; record this progress by observing the plant canopy to determine the percentage of the total canopy at the designated leaf size listed (i.e., Intensity).

Colored leaves- This category is used primarily to show the change from summer leaf color to fall leaf color. However, also use it to show color change from summer drought (yellow, brown, etc.), if applicable. For intensity, determine % of total canopy experiencing color changes.

Falling leaves- Record the start of leaf fall in autumn and the % of total canopy without leaves.

FLOWER OR FLOWER BUDS

This category delineates the start of flower activity. Flowers are active when flower buds begin to swell, expand and/or show color at the tip. For intensity, determine what % of the total canopy is at the observed stage of development.

Open flowers- Flowers are considered "open" when the petals unfold to reveal the reproductive parts (stamens and pistils), usually located at the center of the flower. For intensity, determine what % of the total canopy is at the observed stage of development.

FRUITS

Record when one or more fruits appear on the plant. For intensity, use the following key not found in datasheet: 1-10 fruit/ Low; 11- 40/ Medium; <40/ High.

Recent fruit or seed drop- One or more mature fruits or seeds have dropped or been removed from the plant since your last visit. For intensity, determine what % of the total fruit is missing or has split open to release the seeds.

Note: Use the comments section to describe any leaf, flower or fruit stages or other plant phenophase you may have witnessed that you believe is newsworthy. Everything helps to build our understanding of plants.