

Photo Album

by John Kelly











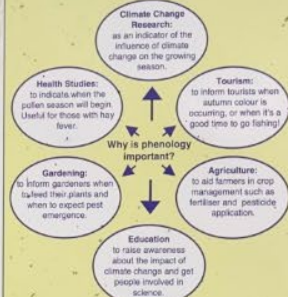
IRELAND'S NATIONAL PHENOLOGY NETWORK (IE-NPN)

International Phenological Garden (IPG)

What is Ireland's National Phenology Network?

Ireland's National Phenology Network (IE-NPN) was established in 2009 by Trinity College Dublin to collect and disseminate data on the timing of life cycle events of plants and animals.

These events are called **phenophases**. These include budburst dates of trees and migration dates of birds. The study of the timing of these naturally recurring life-cycle events is called **phenology**.



There are currently two sets of phenology gardens in the country. The first forms part of an international network founded in the 1960s by the German weather Service and comprises approximately 90 gardens across Europe, 4 of which were established in Ireland by Austin Bourke (Met Eireann). This network was expanded in 2009 and now has 16 actively recording sites. The second set of gardens make up the native phenology network and comprises 10 sites which will monitor the growing season of cloned native Irish trees to determine if there is any difference in the timing of their phenology in comparison to the IPG species.

Phenology Gardens in Ireland

1. Farnham Estate
2. Lodge Park Walled Garden
3. Arfield Trust
4. Killybeg House
5. Binn Court
6. Irish National Stud
7. Keshdown College
8. Mount Carmel
9. Mount Juliet
10. Blarney Castle
11. Valentia Observatory
12. JPK Ardaraun
13. Johnstown Castle
14. National Botanic Gardens
15. Glenageary National Park
16. Ballymore College
17. Williamstown House
18. Carton Estate
19. Enniscorthy House
20. 5th Castle
21. Armagh Observatory
22. Millers Country Park
23. Ballyhenrich Castle
24. Malahide Castle
25. Bannow Castle
26. Mount Stewart
27. NUI Galway



What is Monitored?

At each site a collection of cloned trees are monitored over their growing season using the following phenophases:

- Beginning of leaf unfolding
- Beginning of flowering
- General flowering
- First ripe fruits
- Autumn colouring
- Leaf fall

Beginning of leaf unfolding, flowering and fruiting are recorded when the event has occurred at 3 places on the plant. Autumn colour and leaf fall are recorded when >50% of the leaves have changed colour. An example of the phenophases from budburst through to fully coloured leaves for poplar is shown in the image below.

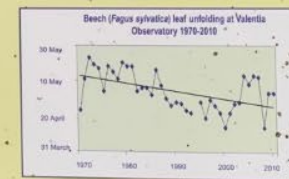


Poplar (*Populus tremula*) budburst to leaf unfolding phenophases. Image: Annelies Plewiers

Species under observation IPG network

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| European larch | <i>Larix decidua</i> |
| Norway spruce | <i>Picea abies</i> |
| Scots pine | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> |
| Birch | <i>Betula pubescens</i> |
| Rowan | <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> |
| Lime | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> |
| Roundleaf willow | <i>Tilia cordata</i> |
| Smoking willow | <i>Salix aurita</i> |
| Basket willow | <i>Salix K. geminata</i> |
| Hazel | <i>Salix viminalis</i> |
| Forsythia | <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| Chinese Elm | <i>Forseythia suspensa</i> |
| | <i>Gymna chinensis</i> 'Red Rothomagensis' |
- Native species network**
- Prunus spinosa*
 - Eucrymus europaeus*
 - Fraxinus excelsior*
 - Betula pubescens*

What the observations show



The graph shows leaf unfolding for beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) at Valentia Observatory, Co. Kerry is occurring up to 3 weeks early today than it did 40 years ago.

Would you like to take part?

To record your observations over the growing season simply visit our **Nature Watch** website:

<http://phenology.biodiversityireland.ie>



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May 20 · 



