JOIN US FOR

Fall into Phenology

WHEN: October 1, 2020 — October 31, 2020

WHERE: Anywhere in the Town of Garner

How to Participate in Fall into Phenology

1. **Get outside and observe trees!** What autumn changes do you notice in the trees in your neighborhood, local park, or community? There is no cost to participate and no training required.

2. **Write down your observations.** Autumn is known for the changing color and falling of leaves, but don't forget to check for fall flowers, seeds, and fruits. These observations are important in understanding how plants respond to changes in climate and atmosphere over time.

3. **Log your observations to Project Budburst at budburst.org.** You'll make separate submissions for each tree you observe. If you don't have access to the Project Budburst website, you can send your form(s) to wdpeducation@garnernc.gov when you're done and we will log your observations for you!

This event is entirely virtual, so you don't need to speak to anyone or register for the event. However, we'd love to see or hear about anything interesting you find so don't feel shy about tagging or messaging us on social media!

Prize: Anyone who shows us that they've participated will receive a unique event button. Contact us by email (wdpeducation@garnernc.gov) or through Facebook.

*If you have any additional questions that haven't been answered by the info packet, visit the Budburst website.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is phenology?

The study plant cycles and how they are affected by climate. For example, spring flowers opening early due to a warmer winter-spring transition. Scientists are interested in these trends to study how they affect plant and animal life. (Learn more about phenology from Budburst themselves: [About Phenology](#).)

What is Budburst?

Budburst began in 2007 as Project BudBurst in response to requests from people like you who wanted to make a meaningful contribution to understanding changes in our environment. Budburst brings together researchers, horticulturists, and citizen scientists on a shared journey to uncover the stories of plants affected by human impacts on the environment.

What is citizen science?

Citizen science is public collaboration in scientific research. Data that is submitted by amateur citizen scientists help professional scientists gain an insight into regions all over the world! As a Budburst citizen scientist, you may invest as much or as little time as you like. You may observe and report on one or more plants one day or multiple days throughout October. You can even continue to contribute to Budburst outside of our fall event. All data contributions are valuable.

How will this event be structured?

Our event is virtual and self-led, so make sure you prepare accordingly. We suggest you take a look at the Budburst website and become familiar with it before you go on any outings. We would also suggest bringing a copy of the [observation form](#) outside with you to record your data, or you can use a smart phone to record your observations straight to the website. You can observe trees anywhere in Garner, including your own backyard, but if you're planning on leaving your house bring any gear that you may need, like water bottles and sun protection.

How do I submit an observation?

First, you have to [create an account](#). When you're logged in, you'll see a green button at the top right labelled "+ New" which will open a drop down menu. From here you'll select "Phenology Observation" and fill out the page with what you observed. Make sure to nickname your tree or plant so you can continue to submit observations as it changes!

What should I make observations of?

For our event this October, we want to focus on trees! Specifically, deciduous trees that go through many changes in the fall. However, you can make observations of any type of plant on Budburst. Feel free to contribute data from your favorite plants to the project all year long!