

How to observe trees?

Advices for the observation of trees

1- Choose a site

Easy access

We suggest you choose a site that you can easily access, such as your own backyard or the local park (if it is open; be aware that most provincial or federal parks are now closed). This will ensure you can make regular visits and observations.

Proper permission

We ask that you obtain proper permission before entering observations about a tree located on someone else's property.

2- Select a tree

Select a species that is included in this project.

At present, we are collecting data on the tree species listed here:

White ash; Black ash; Balsam poplar; Bigtooth aspen; Quaking aspen; Basswood; Beech; Paper birch, Grey birch: Yellow birch; Bitternut hickory (Black walnut); Black locust; Butternut; Box elder; Black cherry; Choke cherry; Elm; Mountain maple, Norway maple; Red maple; Silver maple; Striped maple; Sugar maple; Burr oak; Red oak; White oak; Tamarack.

Select a good tree

It would be great to have continuity in the data for numerous years. Please choose a tree that appears to be healthy, undamaged, and free of pests and disease. If you there many individuals of the same species side by side, select only 1.

Limit your observations to only 1 or a few trees

Don't take on too many trees to observe!
We suggest you start by *adopting* one tree and stick to it over the years. And if you find you really like doing this, and you got the time and discipline, go ahead and add more trees to your observation routine!

3- Make your observation

The goal of the project is to track the timing of different development phases in trees. There are called phenophases. If you visit your tree regularly, you will notice when a new phase has started. Do not worry if you have missed one phase because you skipped

a day or a week. Just continue observing the next phases. A few photos of some phases are presented in the website <http://treeτραque.ca/> under the tab FAQ (at the bottom of the page).

Below are the phases we included in the project:

Flowering (in most trees, flowers emerge before the leaves)

Male flowers are visible

10% of male flowers shed pollen

50% of male flowers shed pollen

Most male flowers shed pollen

Male flowers starting to wither

Male flowers starting to fall

Budding (opening of leaf buds) (this can start while male flowers are still blooming)

Beginning of bud break (scales are opening)

Leaf tips coming out of bud

Leafing out (young leaves)

First leaves separating

About 10% of leaves are unfolded

About 50% of leaves are unfolded

All leaves are unfolded

Leafing out (mature leaves)

10% of leaves are fully expanded

About 50% of leaves are fully expanded

All leaves are fully expanded

Fruiting (fruits, seeds, acorns etc.)

First fruits are formed

Fruits are mature

Fruits or seeds fall

4- Records your observation

You can enter your observation directly online.

If you feel more comfortable recording your observation on paper, I can forward forms in PDF or Excel format that you can fill out. Just contact me:

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Thank you for your interest in this project!