

Find Your Vernal Window Length

GLOBE North American Phenology Campaign

What is the vernal window?

The vernal window occurs during the transition from winter to spring. It can be calculated as the number of days between when snowpack disappears and when the forest canopy closes. The length of the vernal window is different at different latitudes and elevations.

Calculating the vernal window is easy!

1. Each time you go out to make a Green-up measurement, check the snow coverage on the ground.
 - a. Note snow coverage in the comments section on your data sheet: “ground covered with snow,” “patchy snow,” etc.
2. Snowpack disappearance is the first date there is no snow visible anywhere.
 - a. Record “snow-free” in the comments of your data sheet.
3. At the end of the spring, calculate the number of days between the snowpack disappearance and the day your leaves stop increasing in length (canopy closure). This is the vernal window length!



Share your vernal window length with the GLOBE community

Share your vernal window length [on this form](#) to help us visualize how different parts of the U.S. experience the vernal window.

Learn more

Learn more about why scientists are studying the vernal window in this [30-minute webinar with Dr. Liz Burakowski](#).