Phenological Gardens
Field Guide

Task
To record when the phenophases occur for each shrub in your phenology garden.

What You Need
- Phenological Garden Data Sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Tape measure or meter stick

In the Field
1. Examine each shrub.
2. For each shrub, record the dates of the three phenophases. Keep separate records of these dates for each shrub. The three phenophases in order are:
   - BF = Beginning of flowering: This phase occurs when at least 3 places on the plant the first flowers have opened completely.
     - Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis x Intermedia* ‘Jelena’, *Hamamelis virginiana* ‘genuine’): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.
     - Lilac (*Syringa x chinensis* ‘Red Rothomagensis’): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.
     - Mock-orange (*Philadelphus coronarius* ‘genuine’): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.
     - Forsythia (*Forsythia suspense*): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.
     - Heather (*Calluna vulgaris both* ‘Allegro’ and ‘Long White’): Only look to see if the flowers have opened. It is not necessary to see pollen falling off the stamens.
   - GF = General flowering: This phase occurs when more than 50% of the flowers are open.
   - EF = End of flowering: This phase occurs when about 95% of all flowers have died or fallen off.
3. In the autumn, measure the height of each plant except snowdrops. This is done once a year only.
4. If plants are watered or pruned, record each date.
5. If fertilizer is used, record date of application and type of fertilizer.

Note: It is important to report if a plant appears to be in poor health.