

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the summer edition of the Nature's Calendar newsletter!

Have you spotted a **ripe blackberry** yet? It's time to start looking. Ripe blackberries have already been **spotted by a volunteer in south west Wales on 28th June**, a week later than the first record in 2025 ([see map](#)).

Last spring (2025) we had plenty of warm and dry weather, followed by record-breaking sunshine levels and many volunteers reported high fruit scores across all recorded species. Usually, a high fruit yield year is followed by a year with lower yields. But we think this may be the case with all species? Recording fruit scores on your local trees will help us find out.

A warm welcome to new volunteers.

Within these newsletters we share project updates or news, insights into your records, reminders of what to look out for and highlights from our blog.

We are here to support you in your role, if you have any questions at any point, you can ask us via our project inbox: naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk

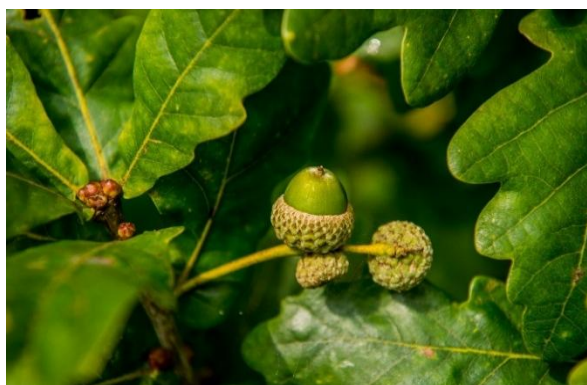
Best wishes,
The Nature's Calendar team.



Photo credit: Ben Lee WTML

Your records – State of the UK Climate report – published just yesterday!

The Met Office's annual [State of UK Climate report](#) was published on 15th July 2026.



Credit: Ben Lee WTML

As usual, it includes a section on 'climate and nature', which is written by the Nature's Calendar team and always includes up-to-date data recorded by our volunteers. This year, our section focusses on 2025 being a mast year. Here's an overview of our section of the report:

Many species and processes in nature are closely linked with climate. In 2025 high seed yields from common UK trees and shrubs were likely associated with the extreme warm, dry and sunny conditions experienced between April and September.

- *In 2025, Nature's Calendar citizen science observations showed the highest seed yields on record (since 2001) for some common UK tree and shrub species.*
- *Seed yields of Blackthorn, Pedunculate oak and Sessile oak in 2025 were particularly high. For oak this phenomenon is often described as a 'mast' year.*

We also included some graphs which illustrate how the fruit yield score over the past 25 years increases with environmental temperature and sunshine, but decreases with rainfall. However, further work is necessary to investigate the influence of weather on the seed yields of the individual monitored species. Including the influence of the past year's weather and past year's yields. The potential complexity is very large given the dependence on

multiple variables (temperature, rainfall and sunshine) and different ways in which the different species may respond.

[You can read the full report here.](#)

What to look out for in the coming months

[It's bramble season! Let us know when you spot your first ripe blackberry.](#)

On a bramble shrub that you can visit regularly (ideally once a week), record the date of first ripe fruit when the first blackberries are soft to touch. Expected Date Range: July until early September.

Tip: You can do the 'squish test' to work out whether the blackberries are ripe enough to record. If they are, they'll be easily 'squishable', if they still feel hard, that means they're not yet ripe. You don't need to wait for all berries on the same stem to ripen as this would be considered too late, just one single ripe berry on the shrub is enough to record as the date of the first ripe fruit.

Fruit Scores

As well as first ripe fruit, please also let us know the fruit score:

- 1 = no fruit
- 2 = meagre
- 3 = moderate
- 4 = good crop
- 5 = exceptional



Photo credit: Ben Lee WTML

You can record fruit score on:

Ash		Horse chestnut		Blackthorn		Hawthorn	
Sycamore		Oak (pedunculate)		Bramble		Holly	
Field maple		Oak (sessile)		Dog rose		Ivy	
Hazel		Beech		Elder		Rowan	

[Download our phenology calendar here](#) to see the full list of species to look out for based on the time of year.

Blog highlights



Credit: Ben Lee WTML

Fruit season is fast approaching!

As spring comes to an end and the autumn approaches, we will soon start to see the first of our fruiting events, with the bramble. Read more [here](#)!

A big THANK YOU to all citizen science volunteers!

As part of National Volunteering Week, the citizen science team would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of you who volunteer in one or more of our projects. Here's what you helped achieve in 2025



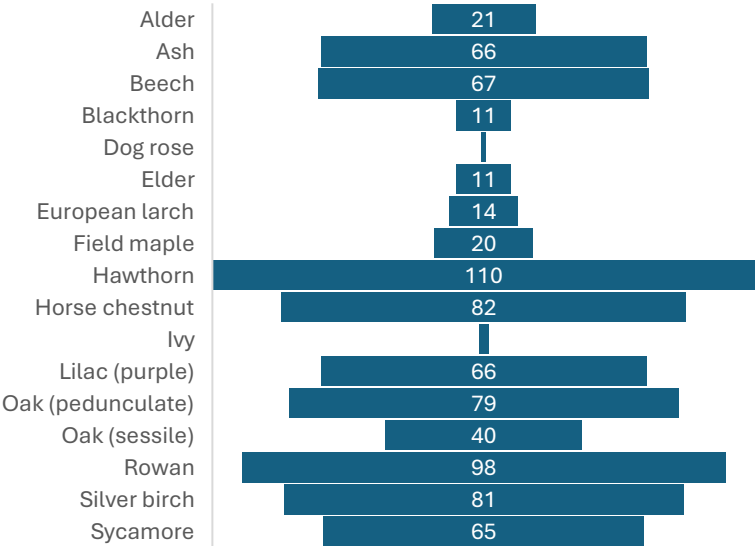
Credit: Michael Heffernan WTML

Your data

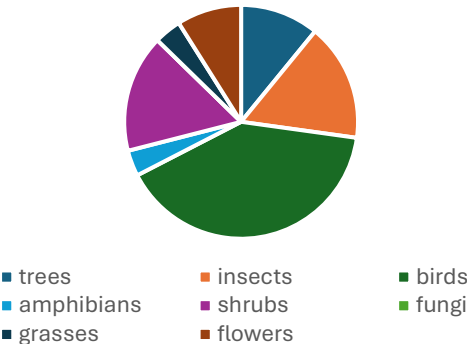
Over the last 3 months we have received 4,298 observations to help us track phenology events through the UK.

April was our busiest month over this period seeing 832 recordings coming in for trees and shrubs alone! The most popular species being the Hawthorn.

Number of tree events recorded in April



Species recorded in May



In May we saw an increase in our bird recording with 247 events recorded. Closely followed by an increase in insects and shrubs evenly matched at 100.

And in June as our spring events start to calm down ready for the autumn season we start to see an gentle trickle of first ripe fruit records creeping in as we start to receive the news of the brambles ripening!

Events of June



- First feeding young
- First flowering
- Juvenile first seen
- First recorded
- Amount of fruit
- Recorded all winter
- First ripe fruit

