

About This Project

This website supports the **Phenology Project** at the **St. George Village Botanical Garden** on St. Croix, USVI. It serves as a collaborative tool for documenting the **phenology**—the seasonal timing of key life cycle events—of selected trees within The Garden. This effort is part of the Garden’s pursuit of **Level II Arboretum Accreditation** through the **ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program**.

Originally created as a way to share photographic observations with the Managing Herbalist, this site now serves a broader function: to assist with identification, documentation, and visual monitoring of phenological changes over time. As the project grows to include additional contributors, such as field observers and specialists, the website provides a centralized space for sharing observations, notes, and imagery relevant to the study.

While the site is publicly accessible, its content is intended primarily for internal use by project participants and Garden staff. Visitors are welcome to explore, but please note that the material here is technical in nature and tailored to the specific objectives of this phenological research.

Roles & Definitions

To support the clarity and consistency of the Phenology Project at The Garden, the following roles and terms help define how participants contribute and how the project operates.

Project Roles

1. Project Coordinator

Currently: Caitlin (Horticulture Manager)

Leads the overall direction of the Phenology Project. Responsible for setting scientific standards, approving candidate specimens, reviewing submitted observations, and ensuring alignment with ArbNet Level II accreditation requirements.

2. Photographer / Image Archivist

Currently: John

Responsible for photographing selected trees and shrubs throughout the year to document seasonal changes. Maintains an organized digital archive, names and catalogs phenology entries, and provides visual data to support the arboretum’s phenological record.

3. Field Observer / Contributor

Assists in locating and tagging potential new candidates for inclusion in the project. Provides written field notes, morphological observations, and/or preliminary documentation for review. Collaborates with the Coordinator for plant verification and relevance.

4. Arboretum Accreditation Reviewer (external role)

Associated with ArbNet, this role pertains to individuals or groups outside The Garden who evaluate submitted documentation as part of the Level II accreditation process. Not directly involved in day-to-day project activities.

Definitions

Phenology

The study of recurring biological events and how these are influenced by seasonal and climatic changes—such as flowering, fruiting, leafing, and dormancy in plants.

Eligible Trees/Shrubs

Plants growing within The Garden that meet the following criteria:

- Are individually identifiable (via signage, coordinates, or consistent traits)
- Exhibit clear, observable seasonal changes
- Are considered viable candidates for inclusion in the Arboretum Database under ArbNet guidelines

Tagged Candidates

Unlabeled or unregistered trees/shrubs identified by contributors as potentially eligible for phenological tracking. These are proposed to the Managing Herbalist for evaluation before formal inclusion.

Phenology Entry

A collection of photographs and written notes capturing specific seasonal changes (e.g., bud break, first bloom, fruiting, leaf fall) for a registered tree. Each entry is timestamped and stored in that tree's digital folder for review and selection.

The Garden

Refers to the St. George Village Botanical Garden in St. Croix, USVI—the physical site of study and observation.