



## Signs of Global Warming in Gardens Across the Country

There are numerous warning signs that global warming is already having a profound impact on nature and in our gardens. Warmer temperatures are being associated with the following events:

From Penny's Garden Journal  
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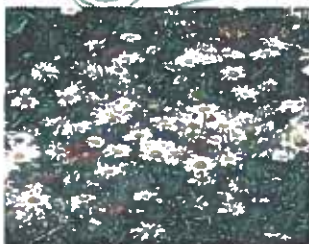
Looking out at my garden this morning had me truly wondering – how can it be spring in mid-February? Normally this time of year, I am pouring through my seed catalogues contemplating what varieties of peas to start and trying to remember where I planted that new batch of crocuses this past fall.

But in recent years, it seems those days creep up on me much sooner. Now, my crocuses have already bloomed and faded, and I am glancing out at the emerging tips of my March tulips. I am contemplating foregoing the peas altogether this year and putting in pole beans.

The more I hear about global warming, the more I realize how real it is and just how much it is already affecting my garden. I suppose some people may think being able to grow palm trees here in Virginia is a good thing – but I, for one, would be truly sad if the dogwood trees I planted when I moved here 15 years ago begin to die off because it is getting too hot.

Is there anything we can do?

- Global warming could wipe out one-fifth of wildflower species in parts of the West as dominant grasses take over.
- Wisconsin has witnessed a dramatic advancement of spring events - forest phlox blooms 18 days earlier than 50 years ago, butterfly weed 18 days earlier, columbine 13 days earlier.
- Flowering plants at Boston's Arnold Arboretum are blooming more than a week earlier on average than they did more than a century ago, corresponding with a 3 degree F increase in average temperatures.
- Washington DC's famous cherry blossoms are peaking an average of 7 days earlier than they did 30 years ago. A 30-year Smithsonian study shows that the rise in the region's temperature has led to an average 4.5 days earlier flowering of 89-100 common plants.
- Seventy percent of 23 butterfly species in California are flying 24 days earlier.
- Once wintering primarily in Mexico, the rufous hummingbird is now increasingly seen in the Gulf Coast states.
- Five species of tropical dragonfly have moved north into Florida from Cuba and the Bahamas.
- Some States may no longer have a favorable climate for their official State tree or flower.



### Official State Trees and Flowers Projected to Shift Out of Their State

STATE	TREES AND FLOWERS	STATE	TREES AND FLOWERS
Connecticut	Mountain laurel	Nevada	sagebrush
Delaware	American holly, peach blossom	New Jersey	violet
DC	Scarlet Oak	North Carolina	flowering dogwood
Georgia	Live oak	Ohio	Ohio buckeye
Idaho	Mock orange	Oklahoma	Eastern redbud
Illinois	White oak, purple violet	Oregon	Oregon grape
Indiana	Tulip poplar	Pennsylvania	Eastern hemlock, mountain laurel
Kansas	Eastern cottonwood, sun flower	South Dakota	Black Hills spruce
Kentucky	Tulip poplar	Tennessee	Tulip poplar
Louisiana	bald cypress	Texas	Pecan
Maryland	black-eyed Susan	Utah	Blue spruce
Massachusetts	Mayflower	Virginia	flowering dogwood
Minnesota	Pink and white ladyslipper	Washington	Coast rhododendron
Mississippi	Magnolia	West Virginia	Sugar maple
Nebraska	Eastern cottonwood, goldenrod	Wyoming	Plains cottonwood

\* Based on models run by Natural Resources Canada which project global average temperature increase of more than 6 degrees F by 2080s.



For guidance on what gardeners can do to combat global warming the complete *Gardener's Guide to Global Warming: Challenges and Solutions* can be found at [www.nwf.org/gardenersguide](http://www.nwf.org/gardenersguide)

