



Questions and answers from the webinar “Why do scientists care about what’s happening in your yard?” November 13, 2013

- 1. Are you planning on offering a cloned species to cover the far west/southwestern parts of the US?** Yes, we have considered a few species for the west/southwestern US, but have not yet settled on a species. The species we choose as our clones must meet certain criteria – if they are non-native, they must not be invasive, and they must be pest-resistant. We hope to have something to offer in the coming years, but presently do not have a timeline established for this.
- 2. Should I consider planting a cloned lilac or dogwood, even if I live outside of the ranges shown on the map (www.usanpn.org/nn/cloned-plants)?** Some areas outside of the ranges for these species are still suitable for growing lilacs and dogwoods. For example, southern areas at higher elevations might be suitable for lilacs. Check out the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map (planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/) to see if your location is suitable. We welcome observations from all parts of the species’ ranges!
- 3. Are there plans to coordinate with Canada’s PlantWatch program?** We are indeed working with PlantWatch. We are currently teaming up to engage volunteers to collect observations of two species of poplar for the [PopClock project](#).
- 4. Will you be adding more plants to the list of species available for monitoring?** The list of species we offer has been purposefully selected to represent the various biomes of the country and to meet criteria including ease of identification, ease of phenophase identification, and to include species of interest such as especially invasive species, important crop species, and allergenic species. We encourage observers to try to work from the list of species for which we have protocols available; this will ultimately yield a data set that is richer in observations for a smaller number of species than if we continue to add many more species.
- 5. Is there a USA-NPN Facebook page?** Yes! Visit us at www.facebook.com/USANPN.
- 6. Do you have resources for engaging youth?** We have lots of resources on our education website that include curriculum ideas for youth audiences. Visit this link: www.usanpn.org/education to get started, and reach out to our Education Coordinator, LoriAnne, at lorianne@usanpn.org.

- 7. Would it be beneficial for sites tracking phenology to also have on-site weather stations for local temperature reporting?** Yes, indeed. Local weather data can be very valuable for analysts interpreting phenology observations. At the present, we do not have a way to ingest these data. Rather, we suggest becoming involved in a program such as the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network for tracking these phenomena.
- 8. How do I sign up for a campaign?** You can view information about our campaigns at www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/region. Soon we will have a way for you to sign up for campaigns directly on that webpage, so stay tuned!
- 9. I see that the USA-NPN cloned lilac is currently unavailable from Jung's Nursery (www.jungseed.com). Can I find a clone elsewhere?** We are looking into this issue, but currently Jung's is the only source for our variety of cloned lilac.
- 10. Have you pursued grants that are shared by you and an institution to spread the word or enhance phenology programs?** Our funding primarily comes from the federal government. However, the USA-NPN is a collaborative entity, comprised of public agencies, resource managers, NGOs, academia, educators, and citizen scientists. We collaborate with a wide range of organizations to pursue funding for particular projects, led either by our office staff or by partner organizations.
- 11. Will there be more webinars?** Yes! We are developing a plan for more regular webinars right now. Please give us your feedback via the survey in the email!
- 12. Are the slides for this webinar available?** Yes! You can download them at www.usanpn.org/node/20633.
- 13. Will you offer some online training for getting started with *Nature's Notebook* before next spring?** We have a variety of training resources available on our webpage (www.usanpn.org/nn/guidelines), in the form of powerpoint presentations, voice-over videos, and our *How to Observe Handbook*. We also make available the powerpoints and videos from trainings we and our partners have given for different audiences (www.usanpn.org/resources/workshops). These range in content and length. Based on your responses to our survey, we may offer training in the form of webinars as well.