

Signs of Spring in Winneshiek County

This list includes some of the common signs of spring in Winneshiek County, grouped by their historic occurrence dates. Download the Field Guide for more details on each listing.

March – 2nd Week

American robins return
Eastern bluebirds return
Canada geese heading north
Red-winged blackbirds return
Common grackles return

March – 3rd Week

Pussy willow catkins out
American goldfinch males molting
Skunk cabbage starts blooming
Eastern chipmunks active
Turkey vultures return

March – 4th Week

Snow trillium starts blooming
Mourning cloaks out
Song sparrows return
Eastern phoebes return
Thirteen-lined ground squirrels out

April – 1st Week

Hepatica starts blooming
Scarlet cup fungus out
Northern leopard frogs start singing
Spring peepers start singing
Northern flickers return

April – 2nd Week

Spring beauty starts blooming
Bloodroot starts blooming
Woolly bear caterpillars out
Boreal chorus frogs start singing
Tree swallows return

April – 3rd Week

Dutchman's breeches start blooming
Black raspberries leafing out
Yellow-rumped warblers return
First dragonflies start appearing
Ospreys return

April – 4th Week

Red-twigged dogwoods leafing out
Virginia bluebells start blooming
Dandelions start blooming
American toads start singing
Eastern towhees return

May – 1st Week

Jack-in-the-Pulpit starts blooming
Yellow violets start blooming
Morel mushrooms start emerging
Baltimore orioles return
Rose-breasted grosbeaks return

May – 2nd Week

Wild geranium starts blooming
Lilacs start blooming
Gray treefrogs start singing
Ruby-throated hummingbirds return
White-tailed deer fawns hiding

May – 3rd Week

Columbine starts blooming
Garden chives start blooming
Dandelion puffballs ready
Mosquitos start biting
Mayapple starts blooming

May – 4th Week

Highbush cranberry starts blooming
Tent caterpillar webs showing up
June bugs bouncing off windows
Luna moths out
Shooting star starts blooming

June – 1st and 2nd Weeks

Spittlebugs abundant
Wild roses start blooming
Cottonwood cotton dispersing
Lightning bugs flashing
Wild parsnip starts blooming