
Volume 39, Number 3
CR SPECIAL 19, 2009

Published September 10, 2009

European plant phenology

Editors: Tim H. Sparks
Annette Menzel
Nils Chr. Stenseth



Phenological phases of horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* are easy to identify; this photo shows developing leaves and flower buds

Photo: Tim H. Sparks



COST is supported by the EU
RTD framework programme



ESF provides the COST Office
through an EC Contract

SPECIALS of Climate Research (CR) present important new information on climate phenomena measured and assessed by closely coordinated group efforts. They concentrate on specific research themes or geographic areas.

CR SPECIAL 19 is based on collaborative research on European plant phenology from the COST 725 programme which ran from 2004 to 2009. Publication is supported by COST.

Europe has a long tradition in plant phenology and many countries, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, have long-term phenological networks that record the timing of various phases

of cultivated and native plant species. Interest in phenology is buoyant and has recently led to the creation of new national networks.

Contributions to CR SPECIAL 19 exploit extensive European datasets. They look at long-term and recent changes in phenology, investigate variation in phenology by season, location and altitude, and examine more recent methods of data analysis and collection.

We are pleased to make the online version of CR SPECIAL 19 available with Open Access.

Inter-Research

Inter-Research

Nordbünte 23 (+3, 5, 28, 30), 21385 Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany
Tel: (+49) (0)4132 7127, Fax: (+49) (0)4132 8883
Email: ir@int-res.com, Internet: www.int-res.com

Information on COST

COST—the acronym for European Cooperation in Science and Technology—is the oldest and widest European intergovernmental network for cooperation in research. Established by the Ministerial Conference in November 1971, COST is presently used by the scientific communities of 35 European countries to cooperate in common research projects supported by national funds.

The funds provided by COST—less than 1% of the total value of the projects—support the COST cooperation networks (COST Actions) through which, with EUR 30 million per year, more than 30 000 European scientists are involved in research having a total value which exceeds EUR 2 billion per year. This is the financial worth of the European added value which COST achieves.

A ‘bottom up approach’ (the initiative of launching a COST Action comes from the European scientists themselves), ‘à la carte participation’ (only countries interested in the Action participate), ‘equality of access’ (participation is open also to the scientific communities of countries not belonging to the European Union) and ‘flexible structure’ (easy implementation and light manage-

ment of the research initiatives) are the main characteristics of COST.

As precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research COST has a very important role for the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA) anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, constituting a ‘bridge’ towards the scientific communities of emerging countries, increasing the mobility of researchers across Europe and fostering the establishment of ‘Networks of Excellence’ in many key scientific domains such as: Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences; Food and Agriculture; Forests, their Products and Services; Materials, Physical and Nanosciences; Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies; Earth System Science and Environmental Management; Information and Communication Technologies; Transport and Urban Development; Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health. It covers basic and more applied research and also addresses issues of pre-normative nature or of societal importance.

Web: <http://www.cost.esf.org>