

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: Flower heads 1 inch wide;

Stalk is 3-18 inches tall

Color: Yellow

General: Often mistaken for a dandelion;

Flower has a yellow bud in the center with thin yellow petals;

Leaves are round to hoof-shaped

Usually Found: Roadsides, stream banks, waste places



Did You Know?

- Coltsfoot in Latin is *Tussilago farfara*, which literally translates to “to drive away coughs,” a reference to its medicinal properties.
- It is a perennial herb that is used in teas and formulas to treat bronchitis, pneumonia, laryngitis, asthma, burns, swelling, skin ulcers, and insect bites.
- The leaves of the coltsfoot are hoof-shaped (thus the other common name “horsehoof”) and appear only after the flowering has ceased.
- One of the first flowers to bloom in spring, these plants can be considered weedy and invasive.
- Scottish highlanders used to use the soft seeds of the coltsfoot to fill pillows.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The emergence of the flower
- The emergence of the leaves
- The maturation of seed heads

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this plant is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)