

## What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** 3-20 feet tall

**Color:** Pink or white flowers, leaves dark green

**General:** Shiny leaves pointed at both ends

**Usually Found:** Dry woods, rocky slopes

## Did You Know?

- Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) was officially declared Pennsylvania's state flower on May 5, 1933, when Governor Gifford Pinchot signed the bill into law.
- Legend says that Governor Pinchot had to decide between two flowers, the pink azalea and the mountain laurel. While he preferred the pink azalea, he ultimately left the decision to his wife, who picked the mountain laurel.
- The Genus name *Kalmia* comes from Peter Kalm of Finland, a student of Carolus Linnaeus, who discovered the plant and sent samples to Linnaeus, who named it after him. He was also the first person to write a scientific account of Niagara Falls.
- The plant blooms from May to June and is especially abundant on rocky slopes and mountainous areas.

## What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first time the flower buds open on the plant.

## 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](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

## Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto: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."

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