

Life Science class, 3/31 data

It seems the biggest news regarding our garden plants is that one green bean has sprouted (not earthshaking, but it is something). When I put the container out in the sun on Sunday morning, there was nothing green. That evening I saw a brownish-green ill-formed mass. On Monday evening I could distinguish leaves and this morning, it looked like a normal (green) plant. No seed pod was attached to the leaves to give it a strange appearance initially; the leaves just had odd shapes and color.

Measurements that I took this morning for all the plants include: (tomato) T1 6.6 cm; T2 7.0 cm; (watermelon) W1 5.1 cm (no change); W2 10.5 cm; (basil) B 2.1 cm; and (green bean) GB (1 sprout) 2.9 cm. The watermelon plants are getting hard to measure, because they have started to bend over. Watermelons grow on vines and our plants will soon start spreading across the soil. Therefore, I will plant them outside this weekend (possibly the tomatoes as well). Please record these data in your notebooks.

This morning I noticed a pesky squirrel on the bird feeder and it wouldn't leave, so I dashed out to chase it away. Since I was outside, a quick inspection of the metal pole holding the bird feeder revealed – there was no petroleum jelly. I guess that exposure to the elements causes it to weather away. Therefore, I will bring up the tub of Vaseline tomorrow and put another coating of petroleum jelly on the metal rod to 'squirrel-proof' it.

New data for bird sightings include: March 28th a tufted titmouse and black-capped chickadee; March 29th black-capped chickadees and a male cardinal; March 30th (our busiest day) male and female cardinals, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, (red) house finch, and black-capped chickadees;

and March 31st (as of 12 p.m.) male and cardinals, Carolina wrens, and mourning dove. Please record these data in your notebooks.

One observation about the bird-feeding station that is curious. When we had the tube and tray feeders hanging side-by-side, two birds would not land on the tray feeder at the same time. One would wait on the tube feeder and then jump to the tray feeder when it was vacant. When I initially took the tube feeder down, only one bird would eat on the tray feeder at a time. However, during the past week I have seen two birds **sharing** the tray feeder. I didn't give a second thought when it was a male and female cardinal or pair of black-capped chickadees eating together, but now I see birds of different species (e.g., black-capped chickadee and male cardinal or red-finch and Carolina wren) eating together without incident. I guess hunger creates better manners and a willingness to share.