



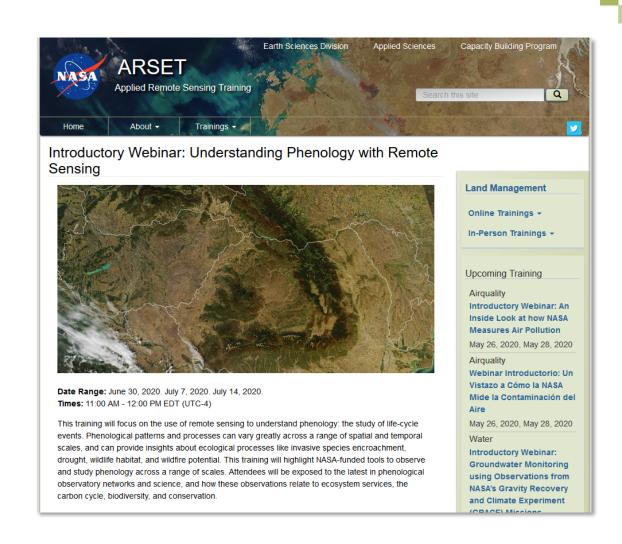
Tracking Vegetation Phenology with Remote Sensing

Amber McCullum and Juan Torres-Pérez

July 7, 2020

Course Structure and Materials

- Three, 1-hour sessions on June 30, July
 7, and July 14
- Recordings, slides, and homework assignments can be found after each session at:
 - https://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov/land/webinars/phenology
- Prerequisites:
 - Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
- Q&A: Following each lecture and/or by email at:
 - amberjean.mccullum@nasa.gov
 - <u>juan.l.torresperez@nasa.gov</u>



Homework and Certificates

Homework:

- One homework assignment
- Answers must be submitted via Google Forms

Certificate of Completion:

- Attend all three live webinars
- Complete the homework assignment by Thursday, July 28th (access from ARSET website)
- You will receive certificates
 approximately two months after
 completion of the course from:
 marines.martins@ssaihq.com



Homework: Understanding Phenology with Remote Sensing

This homework includes questions from the lectures from all sessions of this webinar.

To receive a certificate of completion, you must have attended all live webinar parts and complete this homework by July 28, 2020. Once you submit the homework, you will receive an email with a copy of your responses.

Once you click submit, you may click "View Your Accuracy" to see how you did.

* Required

Email address *

Your email



Course Outline

Part 2: Castas of

Part 1:Overview of Phenology and Remote Sensing Part 2: Scales of Phenology and National Networks

Part 3: Examples of Multi-Scalar Analyses







By the end of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Recall how data can be acquired at various scales to provide a holistic understanding of phenology
- Identify the various data collecting and sharing networks such as the National Phenology Network (NPN), the National Ecological Observation Network (NEON), and the PhenoCam Network
- Access and analyze phenology data from multiple networks
- Engage in regional data collection





Scales of Phenology

Scales of Phenology

Biome

A group of co-occurring plant, animal, and microbial communities that live in the same type of climate, share a well-defined geographic area, are adapted to a particular substrate and level of nutrient cycling, and exhibit a recognizeable set of dominant life forms and habitats.

Community

A group of co-occurring populations of different species, each of which interacts with some proportion of the other species.

Population

A collection of individuals of one species inhabiting the same general area or sharing a common environment.

Organism (Individual)

One member of a population or species that may or may not depend on other members of its population in order to survive.

Remote sensing technologies allow for the detection of **geographically** extensive phenological patterns

Observational studies performed by on-the-ground phenologists provide **site intensive** documentation of phenological patterns

Image Credit: NPN

Connecting Land to Sky



Connecting Land to Sky











Image Credit: NPN

Aerial & Spaceborne Observations

- Reflectance
- **Vegetation Indices**
- Elevation
- **Ecosystem Structure**

Ground Station Observations

- Precipitation
- Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)

Field Data Collection

- Young Needles
- Open Flowers
- Ripe Fruit
- Soil Temperature



Connecting Land to Sky

- A multi-level validation approach that uses ground observations, dedicated web cameras, and high, medium, and coarse spatial resolution satellite data is needed to give scientists an improved level of confidence in utilizing the data.
- Many networks available for accessing and analyzing ground-based measurements.

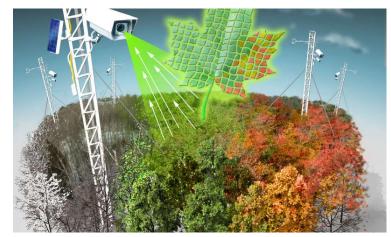






Image Credit: NPN

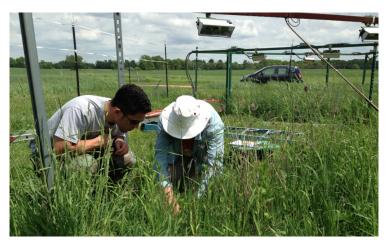


Image Credit: <u>DataNuggets</u>



U.S. National Phenology Network

NPN Overview

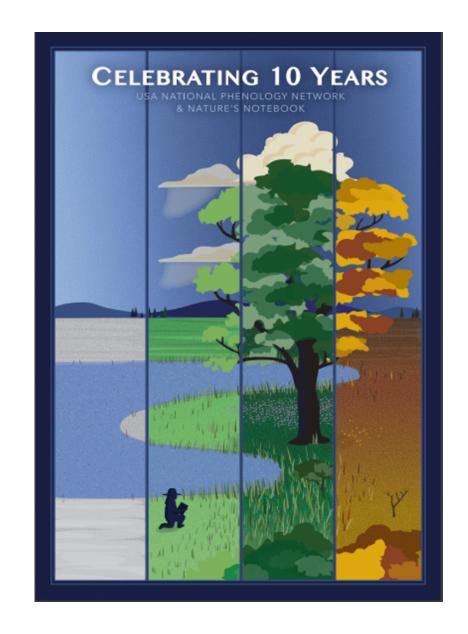
Collect • Store • Share Phenology Data and Information

> Advance Science Inform Decisions Communicate & Connect











NPN Overview

Primary Goal

 Create a standardized dataset for use in multiple types of research.

Mission

- Make phenology data, models and related information available.
- Encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to observe and record phenology.

Understand how species and landscapes are responding to climate change.



Photo Credit: C. Enquist









Nature's Notebook

- A program designed for scientists and non-scientists to collect phenology observations for plants and animals.
- Can be used for decision making across the U.S.
- Nature's Notebook Statistics:
 - Over 13,000 active observers
 - 11,000+ active sites
 - More than 20 million records
 - Over 60 publications
 - 68 data products







Nature's Notebook

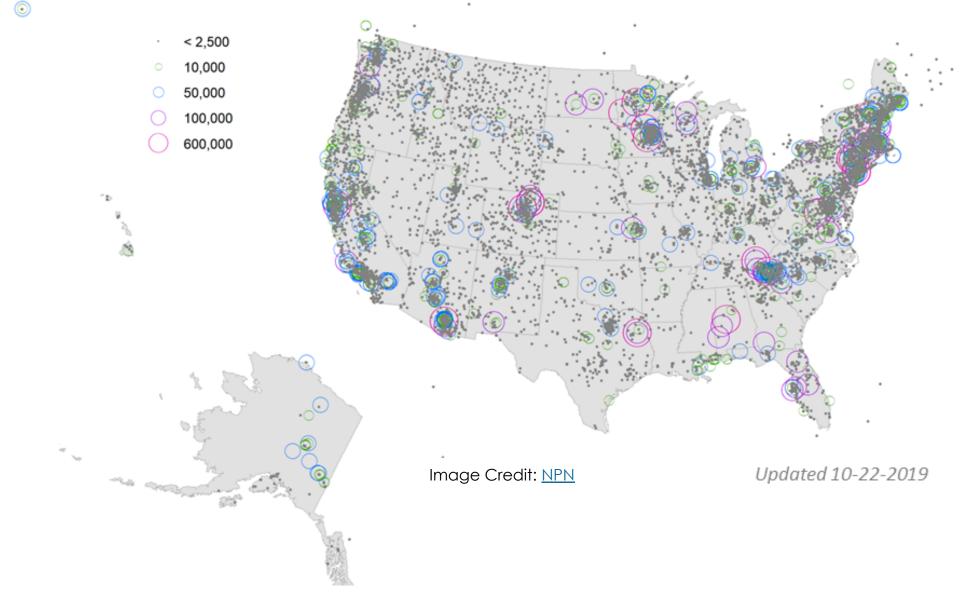
For scientists, naturalists, volunteers, land managers, park rangers, and YOU!



Nature's Notebook data locations: Image Credit: NPN



Nature's Notebook: Phenology Records





Nature's Notebook Protocols

	Date:
Do you see	Time:
Breaking leaf buds	y n ?
Leaves	y n ?
Increasing leaf size	y n ?
Colored leaves	y n ?
Falling leaves	y n ?
Flowers or flower buds	y n ?
Open flowers	y n ?
Pollen release	y n ?
Fruits	y n ?
Ripe fruits	y n ?
Recent fruit or seed drop	y n ?
Check when data entered online:	

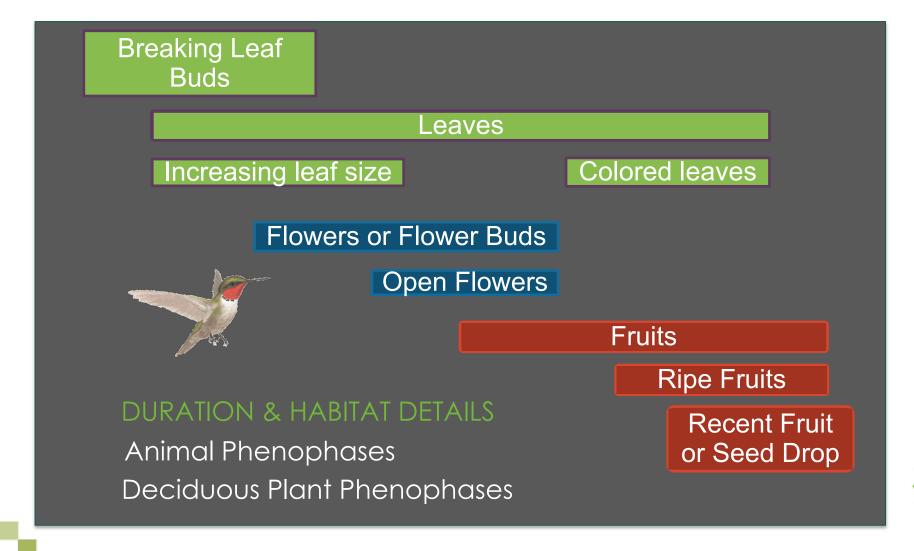


- Long term monitoring of the same individual plants
- Importance of entering the "no" observations
- At least weekly observations - Catch the first "yes"
- If uncertain, use the "?"

Flowers

Fruits

Nature's Notebook: Duration and Habitat Details





Pollinators



Flowers for Bats



Greenwave



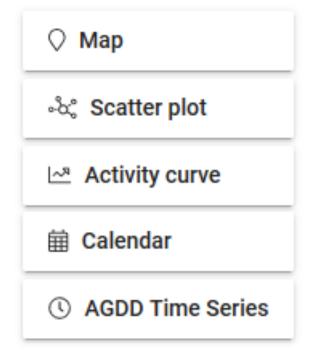
NPN Phenology Observation Portal

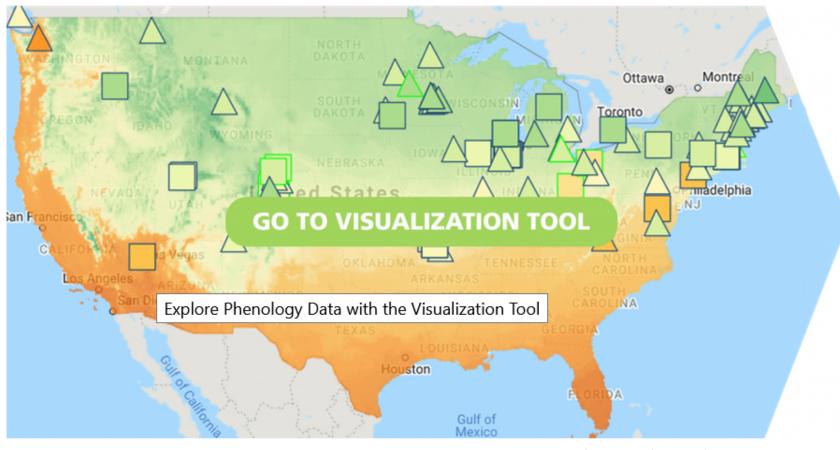
Phenology Observation Portal Get Started! Your Download **Get Started** Download customized datasets from the National Phenology Database using the filters in Status and Intensity Dataset the menu at left to specify dates, locations, species, and phenophases of interest. Choose Date Range 15.0 M Estimated Records: which data type you would like to download. Individual Locations Status and Intensity **Phenometrics** Filters ூ H × **Species** Site Magnitude **Phenometrics Phenometrics** I have read and acknowledged the **Phenophases** USA-NPN data use and attribution policies. Partner Groups **Data Description** Download Source Datasets Status and Intensity Data: This data type includes phenophase status records of presence ("yes") or absence ("no") of the phenophase, as well as information about the degree to which the phenophase was expressed. Each row represents the status **Output Fields** and intensity or abundance of one phenophase on one individual plant or on one animal species at a given site, on a single visit. See the Metadata window for more information. **Ancillary Data** Metadata Next Help





NPN Visualization Tool

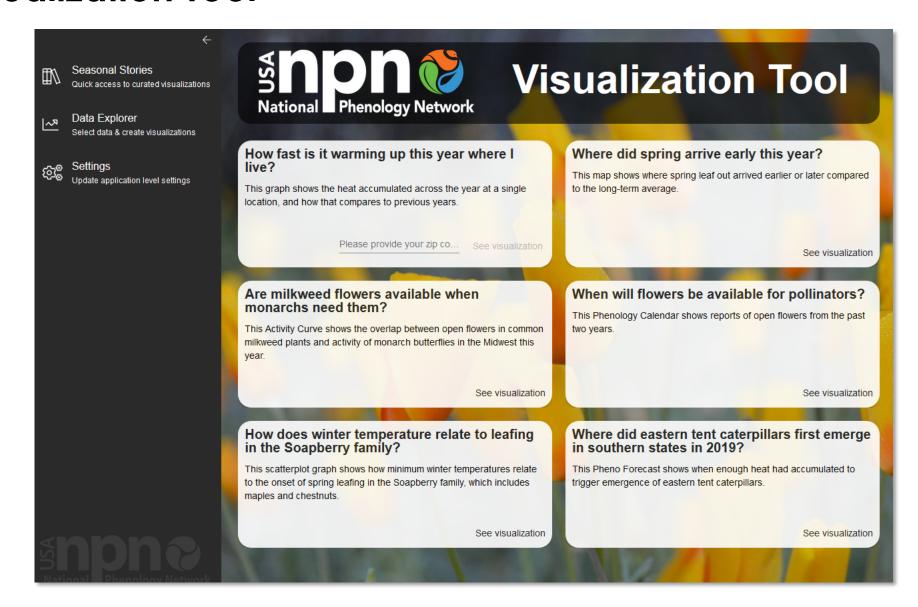




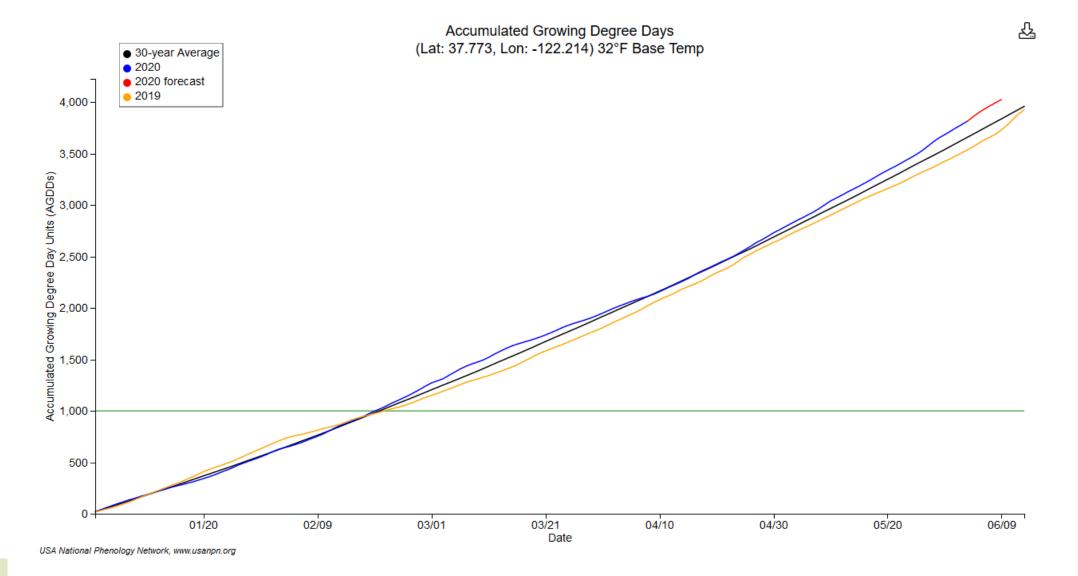
https://www.usanpn.org/data/visualizations



NPN Visualization Tool

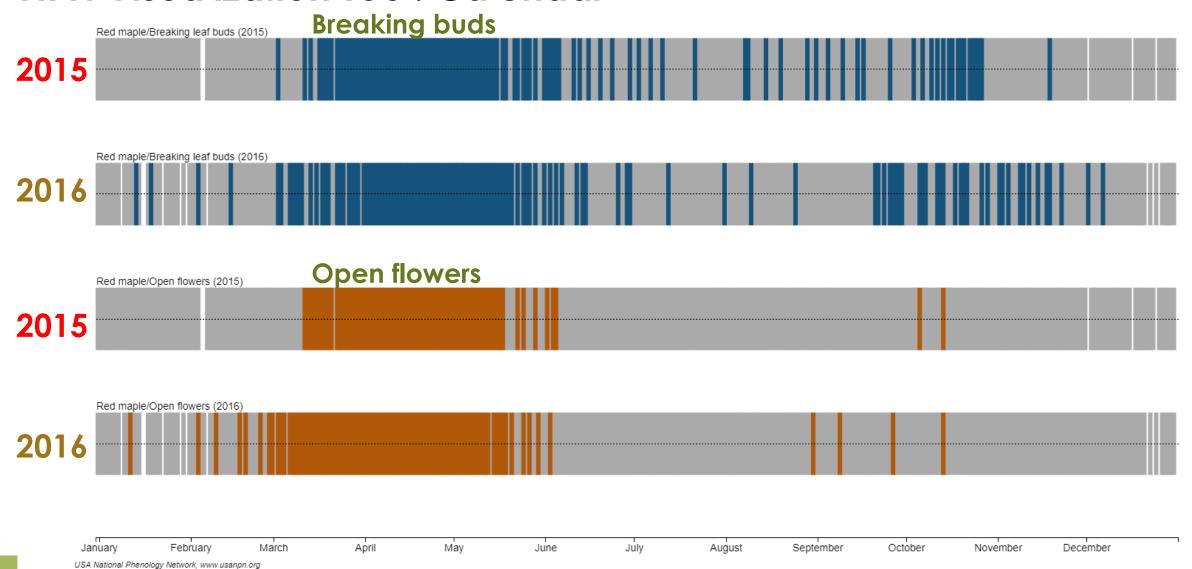


NPN Visualization Tool: Time Series

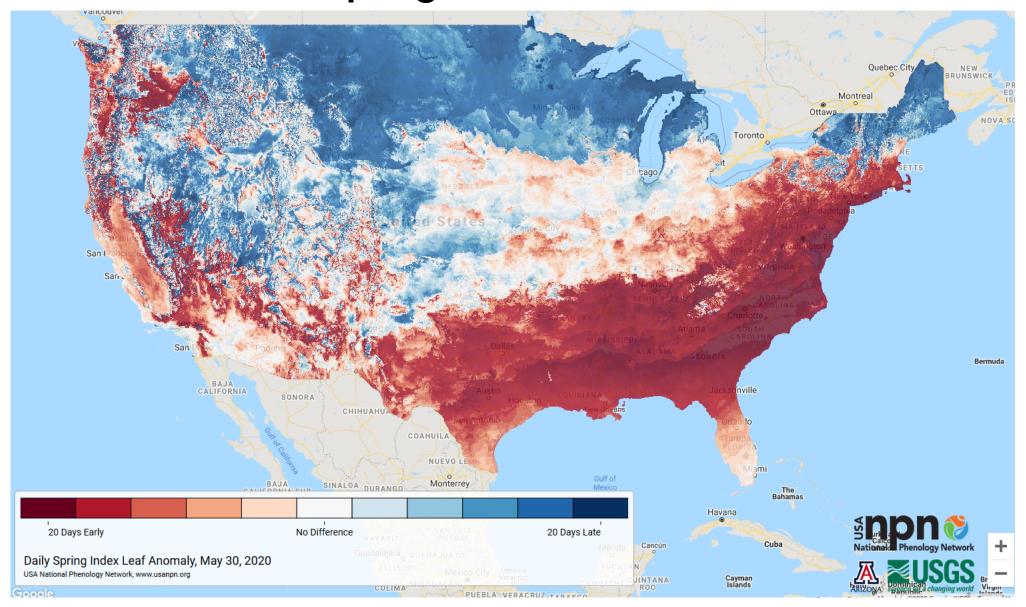




NPN Visualization Tool: Calendar

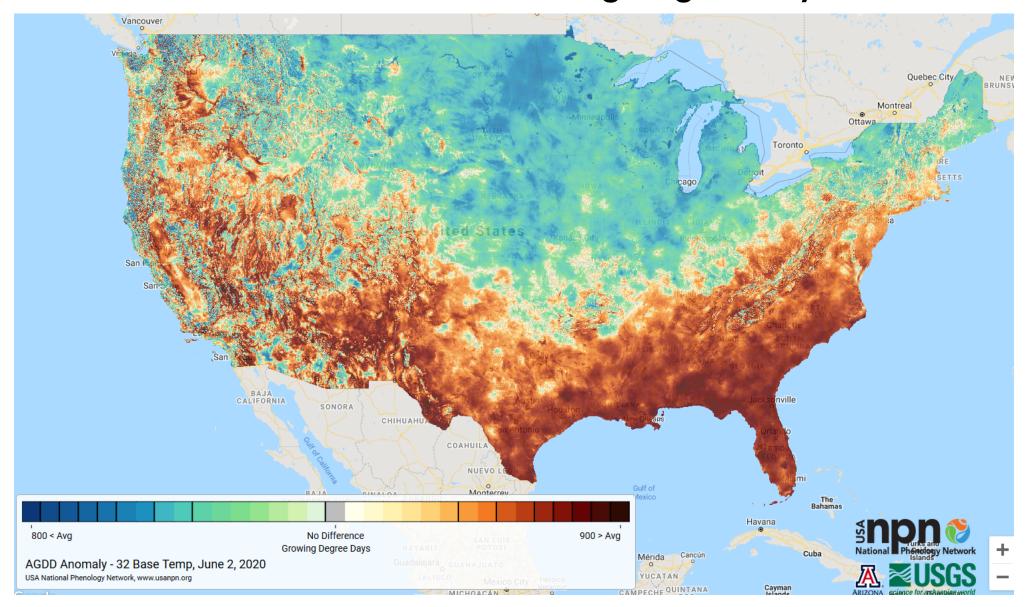


NPN Visualization Tool: Spring Indices



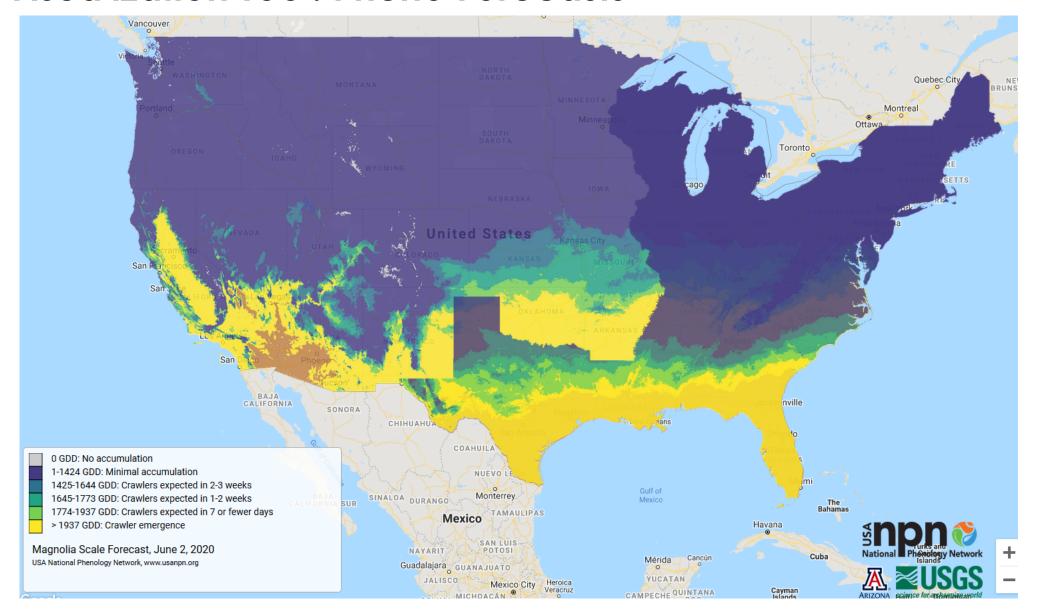


NPN Visualization Tool: Accumulated Growing Degree Days Anomalies





NPN Visualization Tool: Pheno Forecasts





NPN Connections and Resources

Viz Tool
Webinar
Recording
Demonstration

Connect with USA-NPN...

- Sign up for a phenology
 e-newsletter
- Become an observer
- Discover new tools and resources



www.facebook.com/USANPN

www.pinterest.com/USANPN





Nature's Notebook Support

support@usanpn.org



Indigenous Phenology Network

- Grassroots organization whose participants are interested in understanding phenology on lands and species of importance to native people.
- Relational Doctrine (a few points)
 - Everything in the natural world is family, with inherent rights.
 - Our ancestors teach compassion, humility, and give-more-than-take in relationship with nature.
 - Connection to the natural world is essential to individual and social well being.

Learning about the natural world takes place both through individual and

intergenerational experience.

Get connected!
To join contact
Brian Miller:
bwmiller@usgs.org







National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)

National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)

- A continental-scale observation facility operated by Battelle and designed to collect long-term open access ecological data to better understand how U.S. ecosystems are changing.
- NEON collects environmental data and archival samples that characterize plant, animals, soil, nutrients, freshwater, and atmosphere from <u>81 field sites</u>, strategically located in <u>terrestrial</u> and <u>freshwater</u> ecosystems across the U.S.



A tower studded with sensors keeps watch at a NEON core terrestrial site near Front Royal, Virginia. Image Credit Science/Trevor Frost



NEON Data Collection

- Collection methods are standardized across field sites to provide high quality datasets from in situ automated instrument measurements, observational sampling, and airborne remote sensing surveys.
- Over 175 open-access data products are available on the NEON data portal.
- NEON also provides a variety of open-access data tutorials, code packages, and other resources to enable the use of NEON data.
- NEON also archives over 100,000 biological, genomic, and geological samples each year, which are available upon request from the <u>NEON Biorepository</u>.



Various data collection sites. Image Credit: NEON



NEON Sites

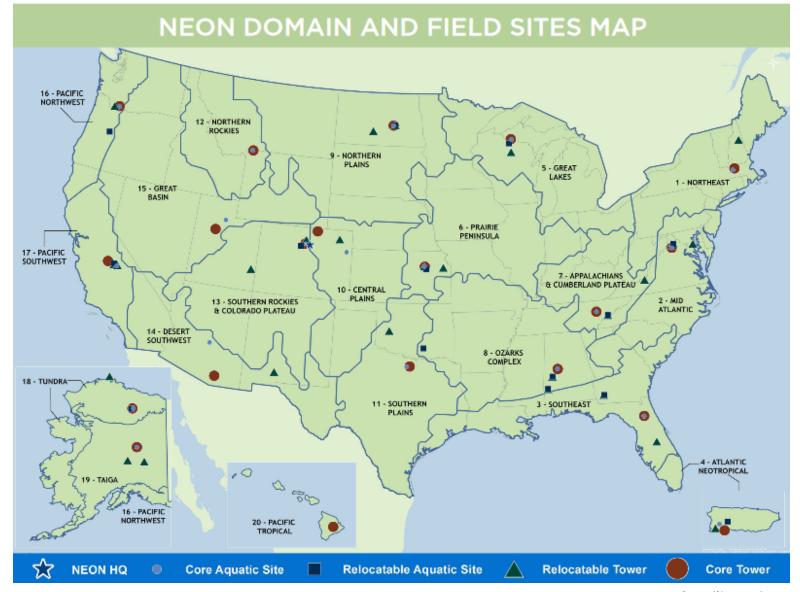
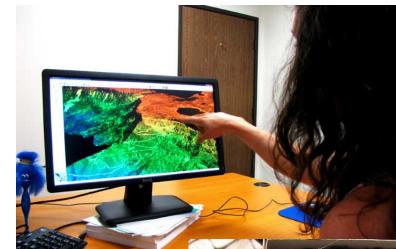


Image Credit: <u>NEON</u>



NEON Data

- Digital Data:
 - Sensor Data
 - Organismal Sampling
 - Remote Sensing
 - Acquisition and Sampling Protocols
- Physical and Biological Specimens
 - Soils Currently Available
 - Other biological specimens in the future pertaining to: Atmosphere, Biogeochemistry, Ecohydology, etc.



NEON provides large amounts of freely available resources for research, including data and specimens. Credit: Sandra

Chung, NEON, Inc.







NEON Data Types: Automated

- Automated Instruments
- Continuous collection of:
 - Meteorological: Fluxes of Carbon,
 Water, Energy
 - Soil: Physical Properties, Soil Heat Flux
 - Phenological: Phenocam
 - Surface Water: Precipitation
 - Ground Water Data







Examples of automated instruments in the NEON Network: Image Credit:

NEON Data Types: Observational

- Collection of terrestrial and aquatic data where possible
- Focus on sentinel taxa: sensitive organisms that indicate the health of an ecosystem
- Phenology:
 - Phenology observations
 - Plant presence and cover
 - Woody plant vegetation structure
 - Aquatic plants and microalgae, etc.

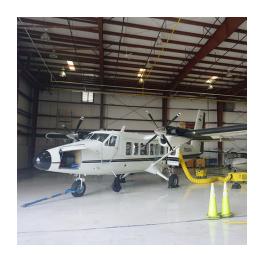


Examples of observational data types in the NEON network: Image Credit: NEON

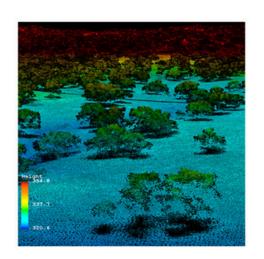


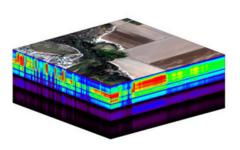
NEON Airborne Remote Sensing

- Conducted over NEON field sites during peak greenness
 to collect quantitative information of each field site on land cover and
 changes to ecological structure and chemistry, including the presence
 and effects of invasive species across landscapes.
- Lidar Data and Hyperspectral Data



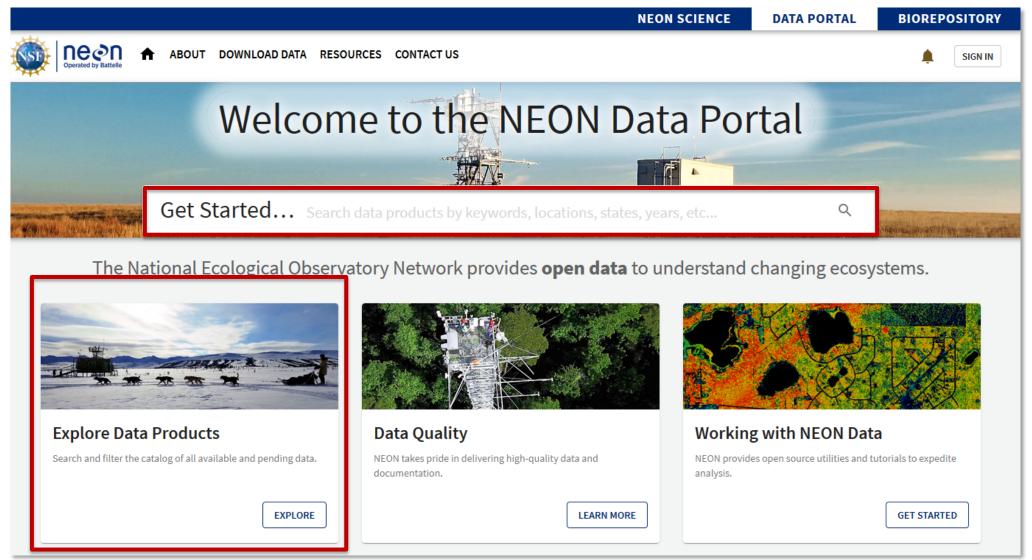


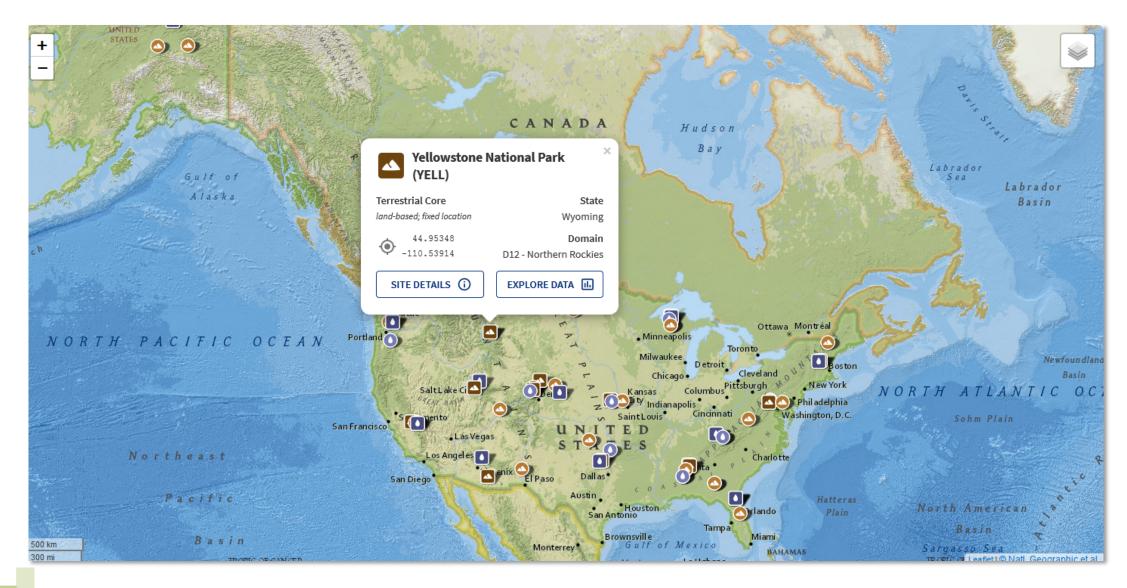




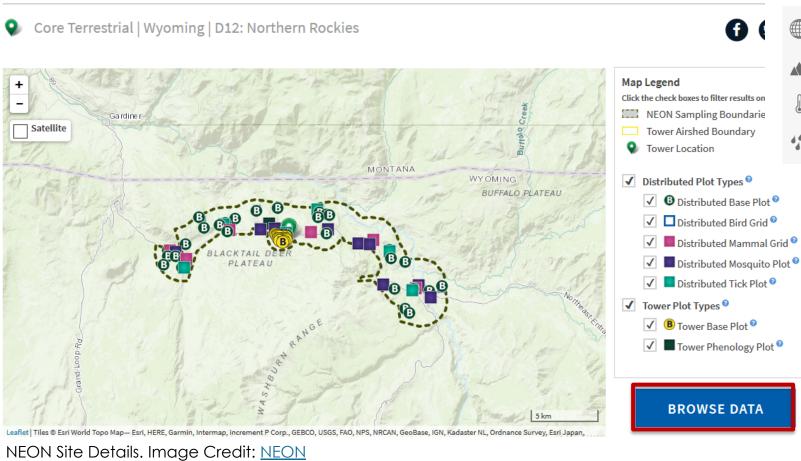
From Left to Right: Airborne Observation Platform (AOP), landscape for data collection, point cloud from the lidar system, Hyperspectral cube from the spectrometer. Image Credit: <u>NEON</u>

NEON Data Portal





Yellowstone Northern Range (Frog Rock) - YELL

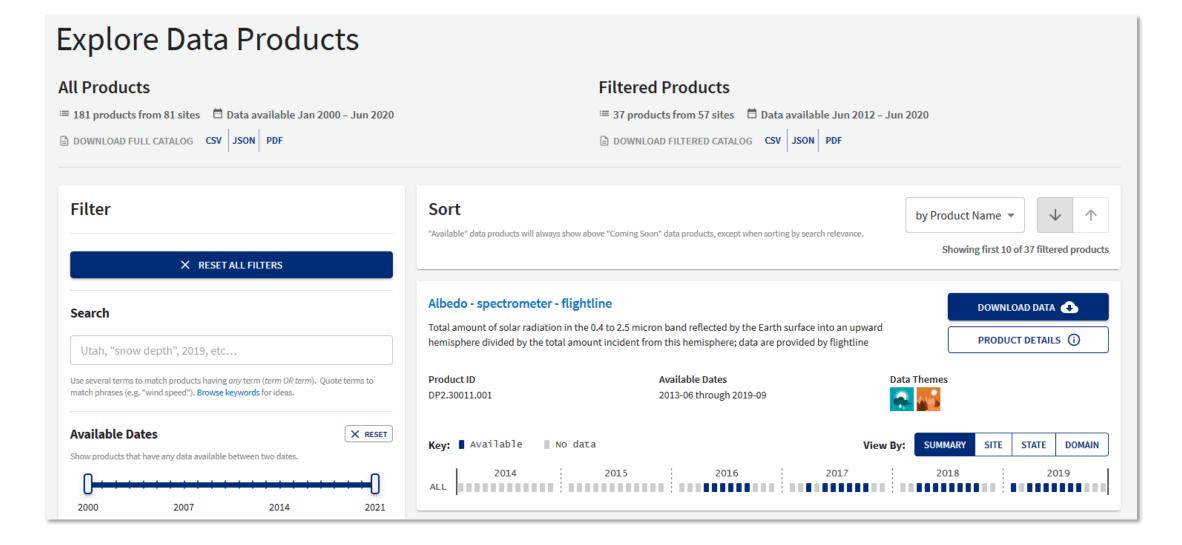


Site Characteristics













The fraction of incident photosynthetically active radiation (400-700 nm) absorbed by the green elements of a vegetation canopy; mosaiced from the fPAR level 2 product onto a spatially uniform grid at 1 m spatial resolution and provided as 1 km by 1 km tiles.

PRODUCT DETAILS (i)

Product ID DP3.30014.001 Available Dates 2013-06 through 2019-09 Data Themes



Image Credit: NEON





RGB and IR images of the plant canopy taken from an automated camera on the tower top. Images are collected every 15 minutes and closely follow protocols of the Phenocam Network.

PRODUCT DETAILS (1)

Product IDAvailable DatesData ThemesDP1.00033.0012016-01 through 2020-06



Image Credit: NEON

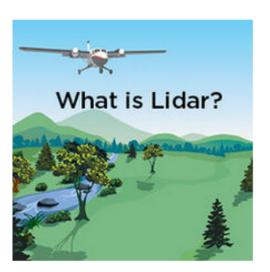


NEON Resources

- Data Tutorials:
 - Self-paced tutorials are designed for you to used as:
 - Standalone help on a single topic
 - As a series to learn new techniques (R and Python code for analysis)
- Teaching Modules
- Workshops
- Science Videos
- Researcher information
- Communication resources







https://www.neonscience.org/resources





PhenoCam

PhenoCam

- A cooperative, continental-scale, phenological observatory that uses imagery
 from networked digital cameras to track vegetation phenology in a diverse range
 of ecosystems across North America and around the World.
- Near surface remote sensing









https://phenocam.sr.unh.edu/webcam/

The PhenoCam Network



Important Science Questions:

- How do photoperiod, temperature, and precipitation govern phenological transitions in different vegetation types?
- How will phenology respond to climate change, and what are the associated uncertainties?
- How will these phenological shifts impact ecosystem processes and climate system feedbacks in relation to carbon and water?



PhenoCam: How It Works

- A bridge between satellite remote sensing data and direct field measurements
- Automated imagery via consumer-grade camera overlooking vegetation of interest
- Time lapse of images to identify patterns and shifts in vegetation
 - Most daily repeat times
- Generally RGB; some with near infrared data too

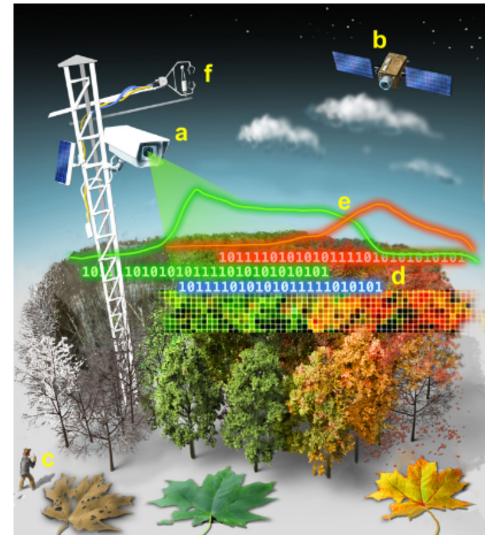


Image Elements: (a) Tower-mounted PhenoCam; (b) satellite sensor; (c) human observer; (d) RGB data; (e) seasonal variation in vegetation indices; (f) eddy covariance instrument. Image Credit: Richardson, 2018



PhenoCam Data Access: Search

- Free to sign up: https://phenocam.sr.unh.edu/webcam/
- Registration required
- Search data via map or using site filters

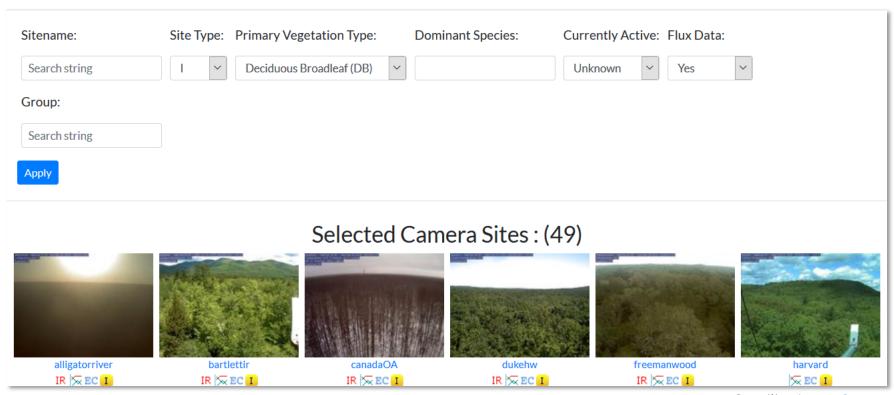
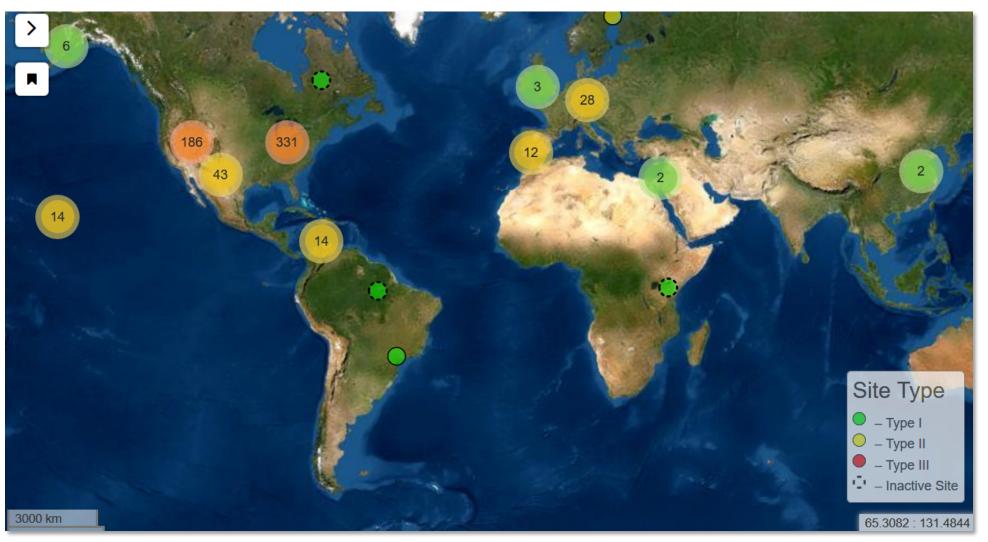
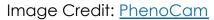


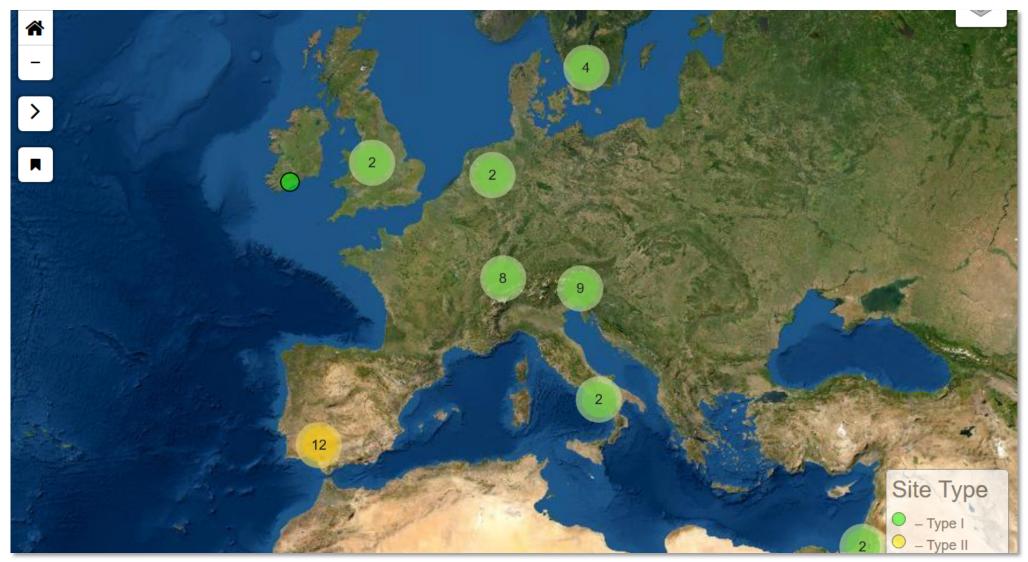
Image Credit: PhenoCam

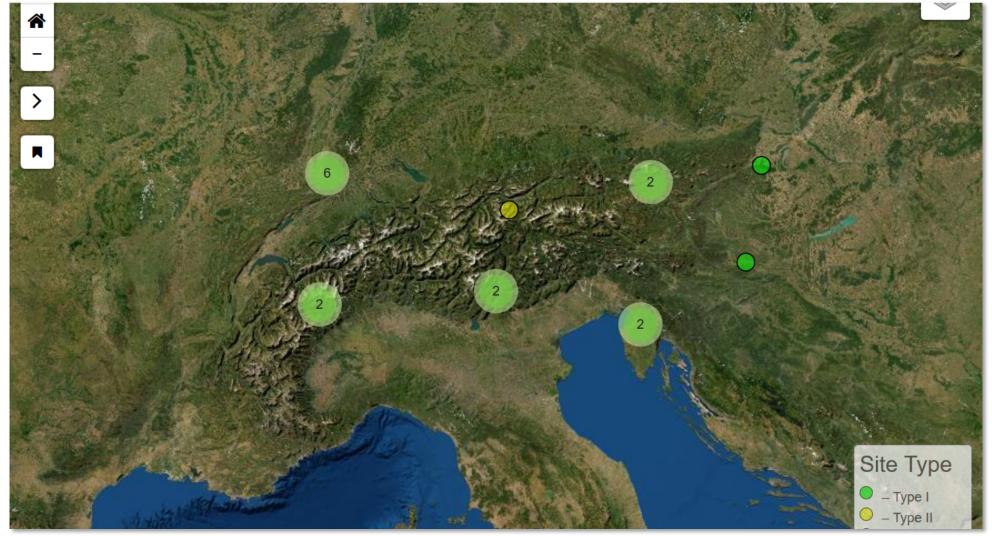












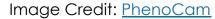






Image Credit: PhenoCam



PhenoCam Site Data

Lat: 46.0147 Lon: 11.0458 Elev(m): 1550

Image Count: 66371 Start Date: 2015-04-30 Last Date: 2020-05-31

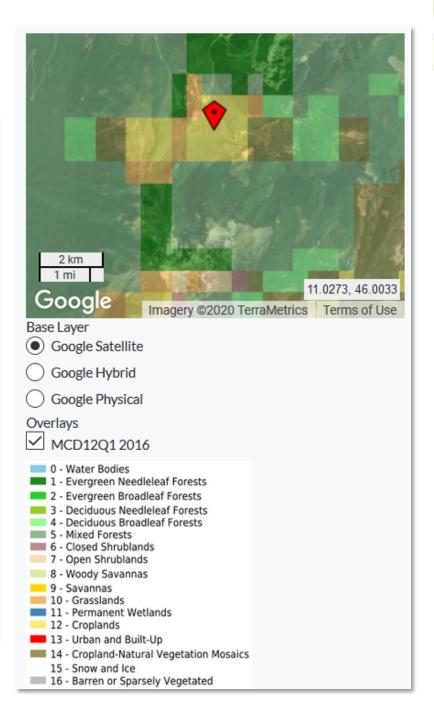
Data Releases: Data Release v2.0

Ancillary Data: ORNL MODIS/VIIRS Subset Tool

Site Metadata



Image Credit: PhenoCam





PhenoCam Site Data

ROI Name: GR_1000 (entire FOV of grassland)

gcc (green chromatic coordinate) timeseries plot

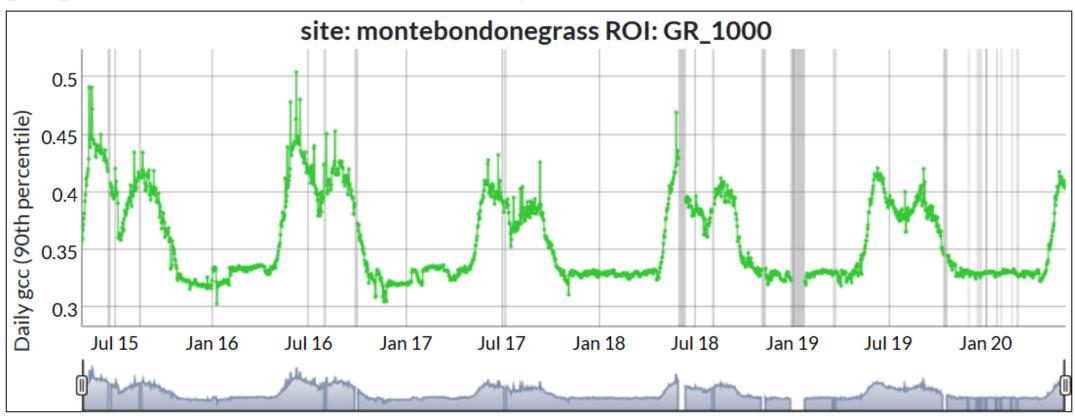
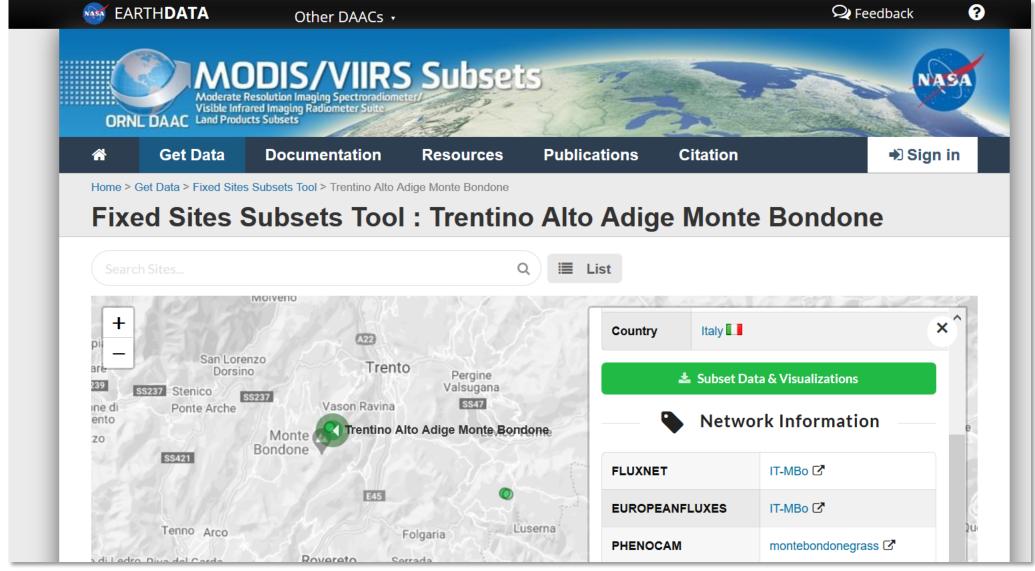


Image Credit: PhenoCam



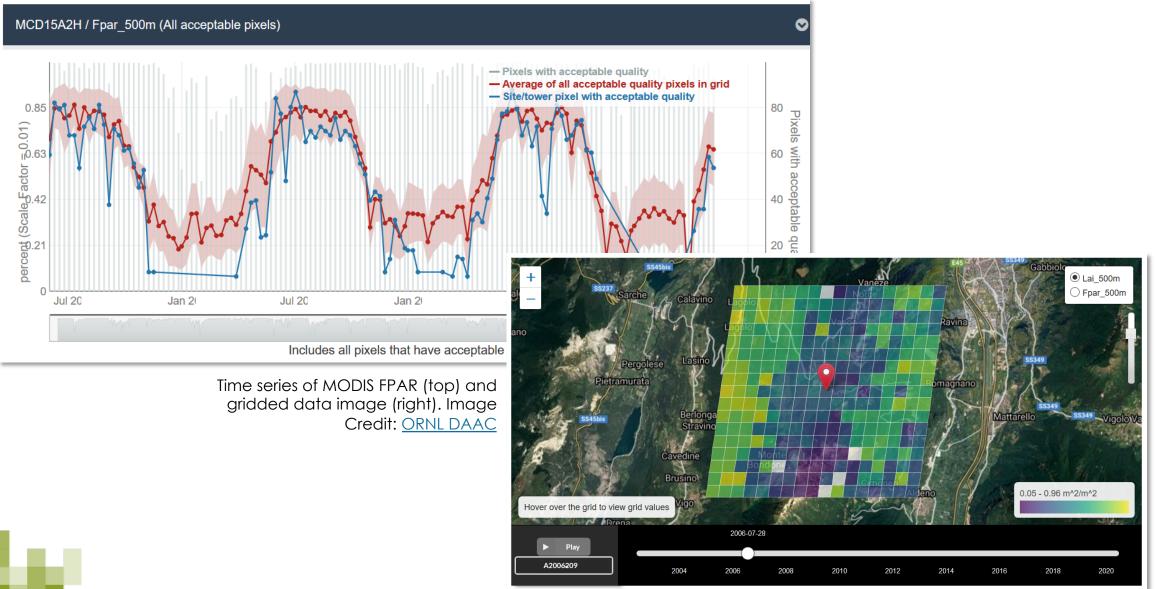
PhenoCam Site Data: MODIS/VIIRS Subsets



PhenoCam Site Data: MODIS/VIIRS Subsets

Product +	Product Name	Frequency +	Resolution (m) +	Start Date	End Date 💠
MODIS Collection 6					
MCD15A2H	MODIS/Terra+Aqua Leaf Area Index/FPAR (LAI/FPAR)	8-Day	500	2002-07-04	2020-05-08
MCD15A3H	MODIS/Terra+Aqua Leaf Area Index/FPAR (LAI/FPAR)	4-Day	500	2002-07-04	2020-05-16
MCD64A1	MODIS/Terra+Aqua Burned Area (Burned Area)	Monthly	500	2000-11-01	2020-03-01
MOD09A1	MODIS/Terra Surface Reflectance (SREF)	8-Day	500	2000-02-18	2020-05-08
MOD11A2	MODIS/Terra Land Surface Temperature and Emissivity (LST)	8-Day	1000	2000-02-18	2020-05-08
MOD13Q1	MODIS/Terra Vegetation Indices (NDVI/EVI)	16-Day	250	2000-02-18	2020-04-22
MOD15A2H	MODIS/Terra Leaf Area Index/FPAR (LAI/FPAR)	8-Day	500	2000-02-18	2020-05-08
MOD16A2	MODIS/Terra Net Evapotranspiration (ET)	8-Day	500	2001-01-01	2020-04-30
MOD17A2H	MODIS/Terra Gross Primary Productivity (GPP)	8-Day	500	2000-02-18	2020-05-08
MOD17A3H	MODIS/Terra Net Primary Production (NPP)	Yearly	500	2000-01-01	2014-01-01

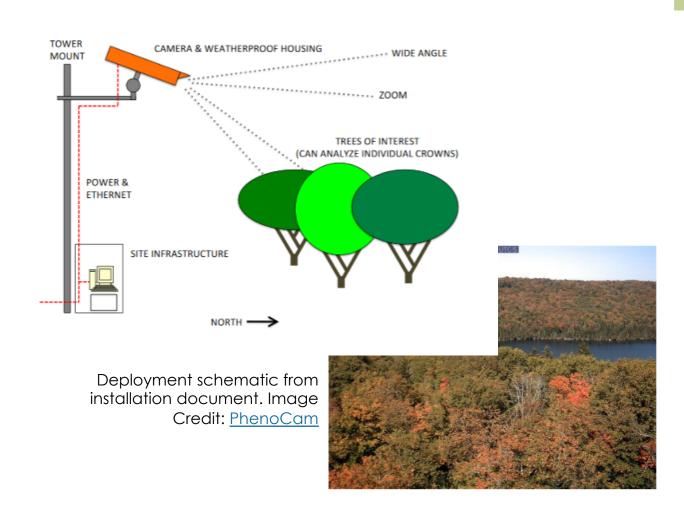
PhenoCam Site Data: MODIS/VIIRS Subsets





PhenoCam Resources

- Camera Setup and Installation:
 - Installation Tool Documents
 - Configuration and Deployment
- Standard Data Products
- Image Analysis Tools:
 - R, Python, and MATLAB Packages
 - Available on GitHub
- Phenology Modelling:
 - R Package: phenor
- Educational Resources:
 - Links to NEON, NPN Resources, etc.



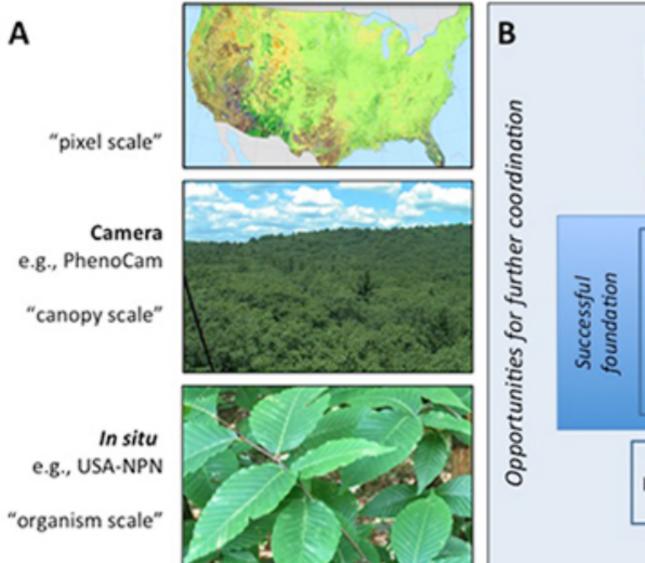


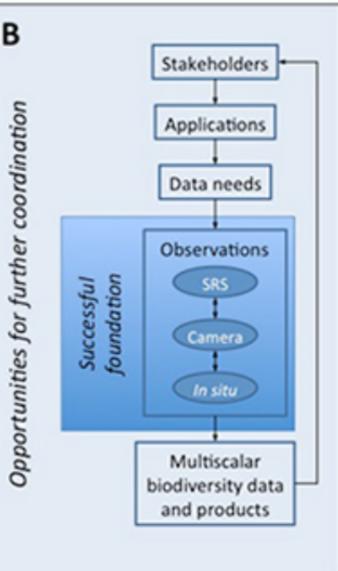
https://phenocam.sr.unh.edu/webcam/tools/



Connecting the Dots

Advanced Phenology Information System (APIS)





(A) Capturing phenology at multiple scales and (B) the multiple components involved in potential and promising coordination. (USA-NPN is the USA National Phenology Network, and SRS is Satellite Remote Sensing.) Credit: <u>USGS</u> (satellite data), Andrew Richardson <u>(photos)</u>

Advanced Phenology Information System (APIS)



- Building an advanced pheno-climatic information system for NASA and the Earth science community
- Provides access to <u>integrated</u> field, tower-based, airborne, and multi-scale satellite time series data and observations
- Tracked over the various scales, from individual species to ecosystems to entire continents
- NASA-funded project from 2017 2020
- Brings together many of the data and tools we have presented here

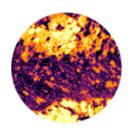


Conservation Science Partners (CSP)



- A nonprofit collective established to meet the analytical and research needs of diverse stakeholders in conservation projects
- Connect with universities, nonprofits, and other national partners to create products and trainings focused on ecology and conservation

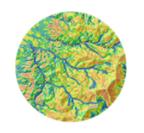
CAPABILITIES & SERVICES



Advanced geospatial and remote sensing analysis



Ecosystem and population modeling



Ecological and spatial statistics



Multi-scale conservation planning and design

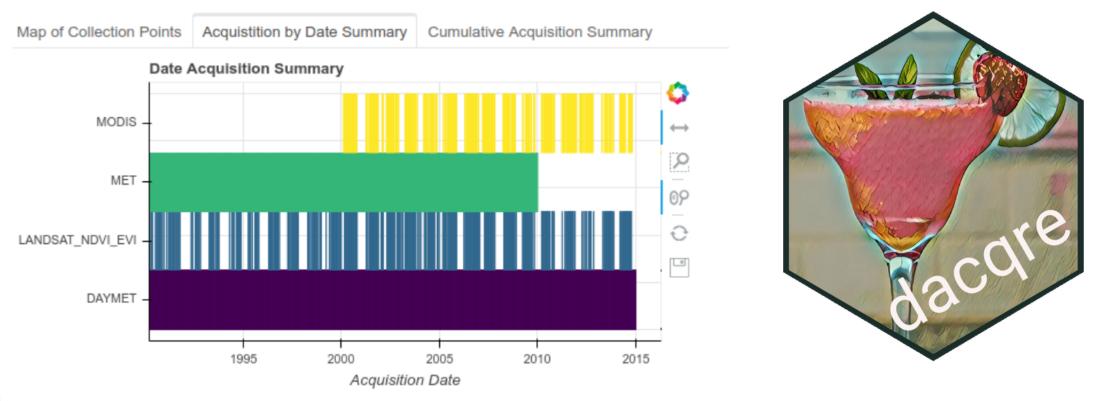


Advanced training and education



Data ACQuisitions and REtrieval (dacqre)

 A toolset for extracting geospatial data, such as those used as covariates from phenological modeling, from Google Earth Engine (GEE), given a set of point locations and optional parameters.



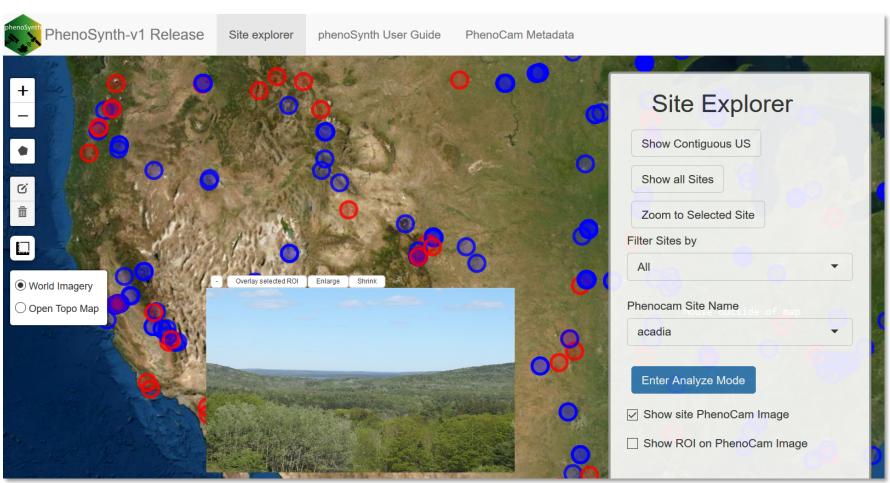
https://gitlab.com/apis-staging/dacqre/-/wikis/0.-Home



PhenoSynth

- R code and R Shiny platform to access PhenoCam and NEON data
 - For the Contiguous U.S.
- Filter by site type or name
- Visualize and Analyze





http://phenocam.nau.edu/phenosynth/



Summary



- Phenology: Analyzed on many scales, from field data to near-surface cameras and flux towers, to airborne data and satellites.
- Many networks collecting and sharing data:
 - NPN
 - NEON
 - PhenoCam
 - APIS
- These existing initiatives represent an opportunity for improved understanding of ecological patterns and processes.
- Real-time phenological monitoring, coupled with cross-scale data integration and modeling, can contribute to improved management of ecological systems in the face of increasing climate variability and change.



Contacts

- ARSET Contacts
 - Amber McCullum: AmberJean.Mccullum@nasa.gov
 - Juan Torres-Perez: juan.l.torresperez@nasa.gov
- General ARSET Inquiries
 - Ana Prados: <u>aprados@umbc.edu</u>
- ARSET Website:
 - http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov







Next Session: Utility and Advantage of Multi-Scale Analysis

Questions

- Please enter your questions into the Q&A box.
- We will post the questions and answers to the training website following the conclusion of the course.





Thank You!

