

MOON GARDENING

What to do, when and why –

1st Quarter (new to half moon) Waxing – Increasing Light

In this quarter gravity pulls water up causing seeds to swell and burst. This together with increasing light creates balanced root and leaf growth.

Planting

Annuals with above ground yields and leafy plants with the seeds outside the fruit.

Asparagus, cabbage, celery, endive, spinach, lettuce, cauliflowers and grain crops

2nd Quarter (half to full moon) Waxing – Increasing Light

In this quarter gravitational pull is less but the moonlight is strong creating strong leaf growth. It's generally a good time for planting especially 2 days before the Full Moon.

Annuals with above ground yield which are vines and produce seed inside the fruit.

Beans, Peas, Peppers, Squash, Eggplant, Tomatoes and Cucumbers (cucumbers are an exception as they like the 1st quarter planting too).

Waxing Moon Chores

Plant roses, cut grafts and take cuttings in both the 1st and 2nd quarter.

Once cuttings are rooted, pot on in these quarters as well.

Water plants in waxing moon

Harvest produce for immediate consumption – water content in salad vegetables is higher and they are also crunchier and juicier

Gather herbs that are to be used for essential oils as the oil content is more concentrated at this time

Water the compost heap

Plant flowers for beauty and fragrance in the 1st quarter

Plant canes – raspberries, blackberries, and gooseberries in 2nd quarter

In drought and dry times plant seeds in waxing moon as close to full moon as possible particularly if plants require phosphorous (small weeds growth, little or no flowers with a bright green or purplish colour)

Grapes for wine are best planted in this phase as they retain their juice and their bouquet

3rd Quarter (full to half moon) Waning – Decreasing Light

Energy is drawing down creating more moisture in the soil but the moonlight is decreasing allowing for more energy to concentrate in the roots.

Planting

Biennials, perennials, bulbs, root crops and crops planted in one season to winter over and produce in the following year for example, trees and shrubs

Onions, Potatoes, Rhubarb, Grapes, Winter Wheat, carrots, Beets and Berries

4th Quarter (half full to new moon) Waning – Decreasing Light

The gravitational pull is at its lowest as is the moonlight and this is considered a resting period

Planting

No planting, but a good time to cultivate, pull weeds and destroy pests

No planting for 12 hours on either side of full or new moon.

Waning Moon Chores

Divide perennials in 3rd and 4th quarter

Start compost – this phase aids decomposition

Spread organic fertilizer and turn compost

Mulch in 3rd quarter

Kill weeds and thin out plants as germination of seeds is low in this phase

Mow lawns to retard top growth but encourage root growth especially if you have a heavy summer rainfall

Prune and cut back plants as sap run is low and regrowth slows dramatically

Harvest crops intended for long term storage as they have lower water content and this reduces spoilage

Harvest flowers and seeds that will be stored till next year

Harvesting and drying medicinal herbs is best in this phase as it increases their potency

Plant all long term trees and saplings during the waning moon as it encourages development of root growth and tree bark making the plant stronger and more able to handle adverse conditions over the long term

Strawberries and runners are best planted in the 3rd quarter as it allows for good root growth to sustain the plants through fruiting

Potassium absorption is at its peak in the new moon

Spray fruit trees in the 4th quarter of waning moon

Websites and References

gardeningbythemoon.com

ourgardengang.com

rythumofnature.net

aussieorganicgardening.com (Lyn Bagnall's book "Easy Organic Gardening" with Moon Planting guide in the back)