

GARDENING BY THE MOON

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I. Phases of the Moon

- A) New Moon (dark of the moon to new moon) - phase of increasing light; starts with no moon in sky to increasing sizes of visible moon until it is full; "waxing" moon.
- B) Full Moon - phase of decreasing light; starts with full moon and decreases over time to no moon; "waning" moon.
- C). Quarters of the Moon - First quarter starts with new moon to half moon; second quarter is half moon to full moon; third quarter is full moon decreasing to half moon; fourth quarter is half moon decreasing to new moon.

II. Basic Gardening Rules

- A) New Moon to Full Moon (increasing) - Plant annual seeds and transplants that fruit above ground.
- B) Full Moon to New Moon (decreasing) - Plant biennials, perennials, bulb and root crops.
- C) These rules break down more specifically by Quarters of the Moon:

1st Quarter - Plant leafy annuals that produce seed outside the fruit, grains and cereals, as well as plants harvested for their leaves (herbs). Ex: cabbage, spinach and lettuces, cauliflower, herbs. Cucumber an exception to the rule and best planted in 1st quarter. Good time to fertilize and add amendments to the soil.

2nd Quarter - Plant annuals that produce seed inside the fruit. Ex: beans, peas, tomatoes, melons. Good time to graft fruit trees and repot houseplants.*

*1st and 2nd quarter suggestions are not hard and fast; most of these plants can be planted in either quarter if need be.

Full Moon - This is time to harvest; some believe plants especially herbs are at the peak of flavor and nutrition during a full moon.

3rd Quarter - Plant biennials, perennials, bulb and root plants, trees, shrubs, berries and grapes. Also a good time to harvest those types of plants if ready. Canning of fruits and vegetables is also best done this quarter as it is thought to enhance preservation.

4th Quarter - This lunar period is equated with destruction. No planting should be done as moon waxes to dark. Best time to do garden maintenance, remove weeds, prune, conduct pest control, and cultivate the soil to prepare for planting. Some say mowing the lawn during new moon keeps growth down.