

The Celestial Garden- Astrology in the Garden Today

Jane Hawley Stevens

Four Elements Organic Herbals, North Freedom, WI

www.fourelementsherbals.com

Why Garden According to Planetary Influences?

1. It fine-tunes your gardening practices.
2. Offers a rhythm to your various gardening aspects.
3. It can be a quick and handy tool to use when you have just a short time to garden, follow this guide to quickly plan your activities for your timeframe.
4. Moon phases affect ocean tides and also the water beneath the soil surface.
You can use this to enhance your gardening outcomes.
5. Seeds respond to magnetic fields or gravitational pull by sending roots down.
6. It can map out your movements and actions to be more economical- go with the flow.
7. You can tap into the best qualities each sign has to offer and magnify those
qualities in your life through meditation, focus, and action.
8. Moving through the Moon cycles is like having a toolbox. Moon cycles can guide us on
when to use each tool. For example, the First Quarter would guide us to begin with our plans.
This puts us in a natural rhythm with the energy that is flowing through life each month.
9. Following Earth's rhythm creates sensitivity to the laws of Nature and makes it easier to find and
express gratitude, love, beauty, tolerance, and forgiveness. This will create more joy and ease in life and
attract similar energy.
10. Intentional awareness of what influences are taking place in the astral puts you in more oneness with
all that is and increases observation skills. (This was the key to Aldo Leopold, author of the Sand County
Almanac, the Father of Wildlife Conservation's success.) sidenote: I live in that same county, Sauk
County, WI.

What is a Moon Sign?

When people think of basic astrological signs, they are usually referring to the Sun Sign, which changes every month. This follows the influence of the earth spinning around the Sun once a year. The Moon's influence is subtler and refers to the Moon orbiting the earth every month, moving through each zodiac sign for two and a half to three days. In fact, the word month refers to this cycle: think "moonth". Moving at that pace, the Moon goes through all twelve zodiac signs every month, each having its own influence.

The Four Elements

| Element | Zodiac Signs | Plant Correspondence | Garden Activities |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| FIRE | Aries, Leo, Sagittarius | Fruit or Seed | cultivation and harvest |
| EARTH | Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn | Root | Planting, root days |
| AIR | Gemini, Libra, Aquarius | Flower | Cultivation, harvest, flower days |
| WATER | Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces | Leaves | Great planting days for most herbs |

Astrological Signs and Their Influence

Aries: Fire, harvest, and store grains, vegetables, and potatoes, Sowing fast growing crops for immediate use, harvesting and storing grains during the waning Moon, until September, after that use a Leo Moon.

Planting fruit, cultivating grains in waxing (until April), fertilizing grains, fruit, and vegetables from April- September, Pruning fruit trees and shrubs, (waning Moon till April)

Taurus: Earth, root days, plant trees, shrubs, root vegetables, preserving and storage of produce, set up a compost heap in waning Moon, May to October, good for collecting things

Gemini: Air, flowers, planting creeping or climbing plants, OK to sow flowers, fertilize with Phosphorus for flowers, combat pests

Cancer: Water, leaf days, ideal planting day, especially for leafy plants, sow lettuce in Cancer in the Third Quarter, watering potted plants, fertilizing, but not advisable for harvest for storage, or pruning

Leo: Fire, seed, and fruit days, the firmest of all signs, collect and prepare heart medicine, prune fruit trees, and shrubs in the Fourth Quarter, grafting

Virgo: Earth, roots, infertile, great gardening days, transplanting, seeding, creating beauty in the garden, Planting specimen trees, hedges, repotting plants, dividing plants, setting up compost in a waning moon, fertilize, set fence posts in a waning Moon (September- February) unfavorable for lettuce, Do not harvest, store, or preserve.

Libra: Air, flower, neutral energy, sowing flowers and medicinal herbs, *harvest* herbs to process into creams and salves, while waxing, process them in waning Moon

Scorpio: Water, leaf, favorable for sowing, transplanting, and harvesting and doing medicinal herbs, watering potted plants, sowing and transplanting leaf vegetables, unfavorable for pruning, felling trees

Sagittarius: Fire, seed, and fruit days occur when Moon shifts from ascending to descending force, favorable for planting vines, pruning trees, grain cultivation, fertilize at full or waning Moon, set traps

Capricorn: Earth, root, remove weeds in waning Moon, until June, create garden paths, erect fence and set posts in waning Moon, plant root vegetables, set up compost in a waning Moon, set traps, preserve and store vegetables, ferment in waning Moon

Aquarius: Air, flower, not recommended for gardening tasks, an infertile sign, thinning plants, unfavorable for transplanting

Pisces: Water, leaf, plant vegetables, watering, fertilize in a waning Moon, Plant potatoes in a waning Moon/ Third Quarter. Unfavorable for pruning fruit trees and shrubs and harvesting for storage.

Activities for a New Moon and First Quarter

This is the best time for strong leaf growth. Sow seeds on the days governed by Water or Earth: Taurus, Capricorn, Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces, and Virgo for flowers. Plants that produce their seeds outside their fruits are favored by the First Quarter.

Second Quarter Activities

This energy can be used to move projects outward. Plants are expanding and water is being pushed upwards for increased growth. Favorable to plant fruits that produce seeds inside fruit.

Take cuttings during a waxing Moon and descending Moon

Grafting fruit trees, late in the Second Quarter, close to the Full Moon on a fruit day, (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius)

Waxing Moon is "gaining and building"; so, this is the time to make or take tonic preparations for building strength or energy.

Use this outrushing intensity to move projects forward

Full Moon Activities

Collect herbs for fresh use and process them into tinctures, salves, teas, or storage.

Meditate on the energy of the sign the Moon is in to enhance positive personality shifts.

Third Quarter Activities

Transplant during a waxing Moon, although the Third Quarter promotes root growth, or alternatively when the Moon is descending (Gemini to Sagittarius)

Harvest roots for long-term storage in the third quarter.

Harvest seeds when they turn brown, in an air or fire sign. Air rules flowers, and fire is the ruling sign of seeds.

Harvest above or below-ground crops in Taurus, an Earth sign that rules collections of things.

Capricorn rules farms, so collecting under a Capricorn moon is a favorable farm activity, although it is an Earth sign, moister than the air or fire signs.

Fourth Quarter Activities

Cultivate to kill weeds

Add organic matter

Fertilize soil for root growth on Earth sign days, (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) or leaf days, (water signs: Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces). Occasionally fertilize for flowers on flower days, (air signs: Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius).

You can fertilize for grains on fire days, (Aries and Sagittarius), but avoid Leo, because the fixed fire is too hot-natured.

The best sign for pulling weeds is Capricorn between JAN- JULY, in the Fourth Quarter.

Cut back trees and hedges to decrease growth, especially when the Moon is descending, (Gemini to Sagittarius)

Fourth Quarter harvest favors produce going directly into storage, as with potatoes, onions, and apples.

Prune fruit trees during a fruit day, in the signs of Leo, Sagittarius, and Aries, (fire signs)

Divide perennials while they are resting, so they can heal quicker

Order and organize seed collection

Destroy unwanted growth in a barren sign, (Fire and Air signs, plus Virgo)

Complete old structures or projects

Design your garden

Transmute negativity into good for all, release

Nourish blood with mineral-rich herbal infusions

Let go