

# Kaw Valley Almanac

May 15 - 21, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	04:05 AM	10:08 AM	04:22 PM	22%
Tuesday	04:29 AM	10:54 AM	05:31 PM	13%
Wednesday	04:54 AM	11:41 AM	06:40 PM	7%
Thursday	05:22 AM	12:29 PM	07:49 PM	2%
Friday	05:53 AM	01:20 PM	08:57 PM	New Moon
Saturday	06:29 AM	02:13 PM	10:03 PM	0%
Sunday	07:13 AM	03:07 PM	11:04 PM	3%



Spiderwort is a perennial native wildflower that has started blooming in area prairies. Spiderworts are in the same clade as grasses, sedges and orchids: the "monocots," meaning that the first leaf/cotyledon emerging from the seed is single, as opposed to most wildflowers, which have 2, and are therefore called "dicots."



Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:07 AM	06:08 AM	08:26 PM	09:36 PM
Tuesday	05:06 AM	06:07 AM	08:27 PM	09:37 PM
Wednesday	05:05 AM	06:06 AM	08:28 PM	09:38 PM
Thursday	05:04 AM	06:06 AM	08:29 PM	09:39 PM
Friday	05:03 AM	06:05 AM	08:30 PM	09:40 PM
Saturday	05:02 AM	06:04 AM	08:31 PM	09:41 PM
Sunday	05:01 AM	06:03 AM	08:31 PM	09:42 PM

§ Many spring wildflowers are emerging now; weekly trips to a native prairie will reveal new species coming into bloom with each visit for the next month. Some to look for include yarrow, prairie phlox, oxeye daisy, daisy fleabane, salsify, yellow sweet clover, prairie rose, evening primrose, penstemon, and many more.. Cool season grasses are seeding out and will be producing pollen, much to the grief of pollen allergy sufferers (like me). Keep a close eye on when the wild strawberries are ripening!

§ Walk in the woods to see the progress of wild cherries, plums, raspberries, mayapples, papaws and gooseberries. Female cottonwoods are producing their fluffy seeds, the invasive honeysuckle is filling many woods with their aromatic fragrance, and Kansas dogwood flower buds are emerging.

§ Now is a very active time for most mammals, with baby rabbits, skunks, raccoons, muskrats, bobcats and beavers joining young coyotes and foxes, to say nothing of mice, shrews packrats and gophers. Turtles are laying eggs, and birds are busy raising young ones. You can observe and hear a wide variety of songbirds, shorebirds and other avian species right now--don't forget to bring a pair of binoculars on your walks and an app like BirdNET or Merlin to help you identify what bird is singing that song.

§ May has the highest avg. number of tornadoes for Kansas but this week doesn't look that bad. But make sure you have a safe plan for severe weather--once you've gone out on the porch to see what's going on, of course!