

Kaw Valley Almanac

July 23 - 29, 2018

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	05:30 PM	10:35 PM	02:56 AM	82%	
Tuesday	06:24 PM	11:23 PM	03:37 AM	88%	
Wednesday	07:13 PM		04:21 AM	94%	
Thursday	07:59 PM	12:11 AM	05:10 AM	98%	
Friday	08:40 PM	12:59 AM	06:02 AM	100%	Full Moon
Saturday	09:18 PM	01:47 AM	06:56 AM	100%	
Sunday	09:51 PM	02:33 AM	07:52 AM	98%	



This cracked earth is symptomatic of the growing drought in northeast Kansas, which continues to worsen despite other parts of Kansas having received rains that have moderated the severity in many places. Much of the local corn crop may be beyond saving as the tassels are dried out and many upland fields have passed the point of no return and are beginning to die. Soybeans look OK in some fields and are highly stressed in other fields.



Sun

Saturn, Jupiter S/SW at dusk,
Mars in E after midnight;
Venus west just after sunset

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:10 AM	06:13 AM	08:40 PM	09:52 PM
Tuesday	05:11 AM	06:14 AM	08:39 PM	09:51 PM
Wednesday	05:12 AM	06:15 AM	08:38 PM	09:50 PM
Thursday	05:13 AM	06:16 AM	08:38 PM	09:49 PM
Friday	05:15 AM	06:17 AM	08:37 PM	09:48 PM
Saturday	05:16 AM	06:18 AM	08:36 PM	09:47 PM
Sunday	05:17 AM	06:19 AM	08:35 PM	09:46 PM

Nature Notes

§ Many plants have been conserving their moisture by wilting and delaying their flowering phase, which requires more moisture than they have access to. Other plants will not produce good seeds as they, too require adequate moisture levels to properly develop. Some cool season grasses will not only go dormant; they will die and need to be replanted.

§ Delayed blooming is occurring in ashy and sweet sunflowers and liatris/gayfeather. Greatly diminished blooms are happening with most other wildflowers that are typically blooming right now including ironweed, compassplant, euphorbia corollata, slender mountain mint and rattlesnake master.

§ This week is the opposition of Mars, meaning it is opposite to the sun, creating the planetary equivalent to the Full Moon and comes closest to the earth on July 31. Even though a global dust storm is making it hard to see much on the planet through a telescope, its brightness in the night sky is well worth looking at and admiring this week and in coming weeks.

§ Lowering water levels in area rivers, wetlands, reservoirs and ponds make for good observing conditions for many shorebirds. A juvenile Ibis was recently spotted in the Baker Wetlands, and herons abound.