

Kaw Valley Almanac

May 11 - 17, 2026

Download .pdf with functional links at www.kawvalleyalmanac.com

Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	03:10 AM	08:52 AM	02:44 PM	37%
Tuesday	03:33 AM	09:37 AM	03:51 PM	27%
Wednesday	03:58 AM	10:23 AM	05:01 PM	18%
Thursday	04:24 AM	11:13 AM	06:15 PM	10%
Friday	04:54 AM	12:07 PM	07:34 PM	4%
Saturday	05:31 AM	01:07 PM	08:54 PM	New Moon
Sunday	06:18 AM	02:12 PM	10:12 PM	0%



This giant swallowtail was busy checking each verbena blossom. More common to the south, giant swallowtails are strong fliers, and this one beat its wings constantly while drinking nectar. There are increasing numbers of butterflies with more nectar to drink; you can either try to follow a pollinator or just watch a cluster of flowers and see who comes by.



Sun

Venus lower, Jupiter higher west after dusk

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:12 AM	06:11 AM	08:23 PM	09:31 PM
Tuesday	05:11 AM	06:10 AM	08:24 PM	09:32 PM
Wednesday	05:10 AM	06:09 AM	08:25 PM	09:33 PM
Thursday	05:08 AM	06:09 AM	08:26 PM	09:34 PM
Friday	05:07 AM	06:08 AM	08:27 PM	09:35 PM
Saturday	05:06 AM	06:07 AM	08:28 PM	09:36 PM
Sunday	05:05 AM	06:06 AM	08:28 PM	09:37 PM

Your exact times: <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/>

- § In addition to bees, flies and other pollinators, June bugs are out in masses, dragonflies are back, and there are plenty of moths after dark, with frogs and toads ready to eat them. Cope's tree frog's color changes to match the background.
- § Chiggers are joining the ticks; keep an eye out for spittle bugs in the cool season grasses, and lightning bugs have started. There are families of cottontails, skunks, raccoons, muskrats, bobcats, beavers, foxes and coyotes and deer fawns in area pastures, woodlands and creeks. Drive carefully!
- § Gooseberries are growing and in area woodlands, while choke cherry and wild cherry blossoms linger. Pine trees are shooting up new growth, or "candling," cottonwoods are getting ready to open their cotton pods, and mulberries are blooming. I'm not seeing any blossoms on osage orange trees yet, meaning either the freeze nipped them or they're late.
- § Yellow sweet clover has begun to bloom, while, brome, Kentucky bluegrass and fescue are all seeding out, along with that most important grass: wheat, whose heads continue to fill out, though it's struggling in the western parts of the state due to the drought.

§ Grassland Heritage Foundation's Native Plant Sale is Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 10 - 1pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence. Find events in your area: <https://www.nativelandsks.org/calendar> <https://gpnc.org/programs-events/>