

Kaw Valley Almanac

May 18 - 24, 2026

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	07:17 AM	03:19 PM	11:21 PM	3%
Tuesday	08:26 AM	04:25 PM		8%
Wednesday	09:41 AM	05:27 PM	12:17 AM	16%
Thursday	10:57 AM	06:23 PM	01:01 AM	25%
Friday	12:09 PM	07:13 PM	01:36 AM	36%
Saturday	01:18 PM	07:59 PM	02:04 AM	1st Quarter
Sunday	02:23 PM	08:42 PM	02:29 AM	58%



The humble rough leaf dogwood shrub has begun blooming, spectacular in its own right, often overlooked compared to the flowering dogwood species that dominates early spring in forests east of Kansas. Its flowers certainly got the attention of this summer azure butterfly, who also enjoys dogwoods in its larval stage and has a symbiotic relationship with ants.



Sun

Venus lower, Jupiter higher west after dusk, Saturn E at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:04 AM	06:05 AM	08:29 PM	09:39 PM
Tuesday	05:03 AM	06:04 AM	08:30 PM	09:40 PM
Wednesday	05:02 AM	06:04 AM	08:31 PM	09:41 PM
Thursday	05:01 AM	06:03 AM	08:32 PM	09:42 PM
Friday	05:00 AM	06:02 AM	08:33 PM	09:43 PM
Saturday	04:59 AM	06:01 AM	08:34 PM	09:44 PM
Sunday	04:58 AM	06:01 AM	08:34 PM	09:45 PM

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

§ 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. Current blossoms 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). Look to see if any strawberries survived this spring's freezes and are fruiting.

§ Pocket gophers are making their tunnels and dirt mounds; females dissolve their hips once they become pregnant so that they can still crawl through their tunnels!

§ This time of year continues to be an excellent time to observe and hear a wide variety of songbirds, shorebirds and other avian species. Find places with a variety of habitats to increase the number of species you hear/see. With birds having their most colorful plumage and most vocal singing of the year, just bring a friend, a bird app that identifies songs, and don't forget to bring a pair of binoculars.

§ Woodlands are getting a variety of mushrooms with rains, and you can check out the progress of wild cherries, plums, raspberries, mayapples, papaws and gooseberries. Cottonwoods are forming their seeds pods which will open up and release their fluffy seeds, while honeysuckle and black locust continue to bloom and release their exquisite fragrance.