

Kaw Valley Almanac

April 10 - 16, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	12:03 AM	04:46 AM	09:24 AM	82%
Tuesday	01:13 AM	05:45 AM	10:15 AM	73%
Wednesday	02:18 AM	06:47 AM	11:17 AM	63%
Thursday	03:13 AM	07:48 AM	12:27 PM	3rd Quarter
Friday	03:59 AM	08:47 AM	01:42 PM	40%
Saturday	04:37 AM	09:43 AM	02:58 PM	29%
Sunday	05:08 AM	10:35 AM	04:12 PM	19%



5 years ago, this redbud was in full bloom on March 31 in northeast Kansas. This year, this tree will be looking the same at the beginning of next week, April 16. There is much yearly variability in our "continental" climate, thousands of miles from the ocean. "Maritime" climates are dominated by the stabilizing influence of the oceans, so year-to-year variability is much less. This is why it is important to take tens of thousands of measurements across both land and sea if you are trying to get a clear picture of global climate trends.



Sun

Venus, Mercury W, Mars SSW at dusk

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:57 AM	06:52 AM	07:53 PM	08:55 PM
Tuesday	05:56 AM	06:50 AM	07:54 PM	08:56 PM
Wednesday	05:54 AM	06:49 AM	07:55 PM	08:57 PM
Thursday	05:52 AM	06:47 AM	07:56 PM	08:59 PM
Friday	05:51 AM	06:46 AM	07:57 PM	09:00 PM
Saturday	05:49 AM	06:44 AM	07:58 PM	09:01 PM
Sunday	05:47 AM	06:43 AM	07:59 PM	09:02 PM

§ Why do ranchers burn prairies? Grasses and forbs (fancy name for wildflowers) bounce back from burns since growing tips are underground, unlike woody plants whose buds are on the above-ground twigs that are singed by the flames, which helps grasslands from being encroached by woody growth. Fire is a normal and necessary part of the prairie ecosystem and is essential for maintaining good diversity. Expect more prairie burning in coming weeks.

§ Spring wildflowers season, after a slow start, is in full swing. In the native oak hickory woodlands, look for false rue anemone, rue anemone, dutchman's breeches, trout lily and cutleaf toothwort. Look for swelling papaw and hickory buds as well. In prairies, keep your eyes open for spring beauties, verbena, pussytoes and dogtooth violets amongst the still-dormant prairie grasses.

§ Cottonwood male catkins are dropping, soon to be followed by unfurling leaves, which initially are reddish and tender before greening up and becoming much more rigid. Poison ivy leaves are also reddish and tender when first unfurling, but they stay much more tender than cottonwood leaves after they green up.

§ Many songbirds have returned and are laying eggs and wild turkeys have begun to sit on eggs. Some say it is not too early to put out your hummingbird feeders. Whippoorwills will soon arrive with their nighttime songs.

§ It's probably too early to look for morels, but if you just got some rain and it's warming up, why not? Ticks are out, too.