



The female mallard lays one egg each day, and after incubating them about 28 days they all hatch within 24 hours of each other. The day after the brood hatches the mother leads them to water. The ducklings' down feathers are not yet waterproof and they can get waterlogged and drown if in the water too long. Their mother will make them water-ready with oil from her glands.

## FRESHWATER

### Be part of the solution — become a Master Water Steward

The Master Water Stewards certification program offers a great opportunity for you to join a local network of energized leaders and tackle water issues in your community. Master Water Stewards serve as respected and knowledgeable resources around issues of local water health.

Certified stewards are trained in hydrology, stormwater management, groundwater health, water policy, landscape assessment, community/social marketing, and clean water practices.

If you have a passion for clean water like we do, join our team of Master Water Steward volunteers who have become leaders in their communities and champions of improving water health at the grassroots level.

Learn more at [masterwaterstewards.org](http://masterwaterstewards.org).

## JUNE PHENOLOGY

### Jim Gilbert's Nature Notes

#### First week of June

Newly-hatched wood ducks jump from their nest boxes. Both painted turtles and large snapping turtles come up on dry land to lay their eggs. Motorists should watch for them crossing roadways. White-tailed deer fawns are born; each weighs about seven pounds at birth and has little odor. Their mothers leave them to lie still in protected spots, usually in or near a forest, and returns quite often to nurse her young. Along the North Shore of Lake Superior, forests are beautiful with the light, bright, fresh mint green of newly leafed-out quaking aspens and paper birches, providing beautiful contrast to the dark green of spruces, pines, and balsam firs, and the white blossoms on serviceberry trees and shrubs. Wildflowers blooming in the area include starflower, wild lily-of-the-valley, and clintonia.

*June 1, 2018: In southern Minnesota, wild grape, wild blackcap raspberry, and smooth wild rose bloomed on forest edges.*

#### Second week of June

Northern catalpa trees are a striking sight with their big clusters of white flowers that have spots of purple and gold. Adult Canada geese and trumpeter swans are shedding their flight feathers. In central and northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, the first common loon chicks hatch and ride on the backs of their parents, who catch fish and floating insects for them.

*June 7, 2018: The first green frogs were calling, and common tree frogs were vocal. Fragrant greenish staghorn sumac shrub flowers were opening.*

*June 9, 2018: Russian olive trees, tall bearded irises, and peonies were blooming nicely. Showy pink and white lady's-slippers began blooming at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.*

#### Third week of June

Birds begin singing close to 4:20 am, with American robins starting first. June is rose month when we can experience the most blossoms from many types of roses. Native white water-lily flowers are showy. Enjoy the sweet fragrance of staghorn sumac flower clusters. Young Baltimore orioles fledge and continue being vocal. About 200 bird species nest in Minnesota and this is the prime month. Great crested flycatchers, tree swallows, purple martins, pileated woodpeckers, and chestnut-sided warblers are among those nesting now. Minnesota has about 15 species of fireflies. Now until mid-July is a great time to show children this wonder of nature. Far into

the night we can see these moving specks of light in wetlands, wet ditches, tall grassy spots, old fields, forest edges, and over lawns near more natural areas.

#### Fourth week of June

Serviceberries and mulberries are juicy and delicious to hikers, and many wild birds such as gray catbirds and American robins. Lawns are lush green and fast-growing. Gardeners harvest peas, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, carrots, and strawberries. Along the North Shore of Lake Superior naturalized wild lupine flowers are extremely showy now with a dazzling display of blue, purple, and pink. Wild lupine is a native species of the western states. Wild blueberry picking begins in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

*June 28, 2018: Farmers harvested the second crop of alfalfa. Field corn was up as high as 5.5 feet and soybean plants as much as 14 to 18 inches.*

*June 30, 2018: The third hot day in a row and the water temperature of Lake Waconia and other area lakes hit 80 degrees. The first wild blackcap and garden raspberries were ripe and ready to pick.*

### LOOK FOR...



Garden roses at June peak of bloom (U of Minn. Landscape Arboretum)

2018	June 19
2017	June 23
2016	June 20
2015	June 24
2014	June 25
2013	June 27
2012	June 15
2011	June 26
2010	June 20
2009	June 22



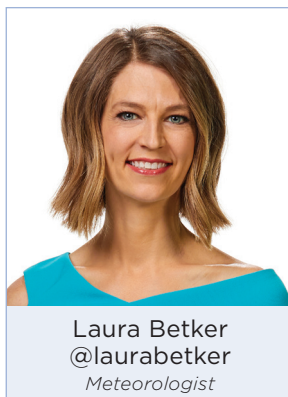
DIANE HERMAN | CEDAR WAXWING | CHASKA, MN





It's summer! Finally! Meteorologically, we start the new season on June first. That makes keeping statistics consistent and relatively easier than starting on the astronomical first day of summer, which falls on or close to June 21. One thing we love most of all about this month is the amount of sunlight. June gives us our longest days and shortest nights. Give or take a few minutes, we get 15 hours and 30 minutes of bright, shiny sun each day this month. This year we'll enjoy 15 hours and 37 minutes of daylight on June 20 — our longest day. Summer officially begins this day at 4:44 pm.

Soak it in!



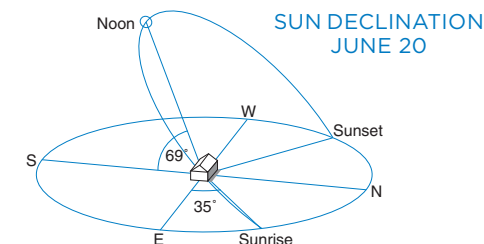
## MY NATURE NOTES

## ASTRONOMY

Ron Schmit

## Morning sky

Venus crosses over into the morning sky with Inferior Conjunction on 6/3, appearing on the pre-dawn horizon by mid-month. The Moon will pass  $0.6^\circ$  south on 6/19. Venus will be nearly at a quarter phase and 18 degrees up at sunrise by month's end. Earth continues to close on Mars, getting within one astronomical unit, this month, making it brighter in the sky. On 6/12, Mars passes  $1^\circ 44'$  south of Neptune and also gets a pass from the Moon.



## Evening sky

Mercury reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation on 6/4 — the best time to see it this month. Saturn, Jupiter, and the Moon rise together just before midnight on 6/7 and 6/8.

## Highlights

In our sky the Sun and Moon appear to be the same size. Though the Sun is 400x larger than the Moon, it is 400x farther away. Thus, when the Moon passes in front of the Sun, it can completely block out its light — a total solar eclipse. The U.S. last experienced this in 2017 and will again in 2024, with totality stretching from Texas up through Maine. Since the Moon's orbit is not a perfect circle, its distance from Earth varies from about 221,000 to 252,000 miles. This makes it appear larger when closer and smaller when farther away. If a total solar eclipse were to happen when the Moon is at this farther point, the Moon's disc would be too small to completely cover the Sun, leaving a ring (or annulus) of sunlight around its shadow. This is an annular solar eclipse. Though it will not be visible from the U.S., an annular solar eclipse on 6/21 will start in central Africa and move through Yemen, Oman, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and China before ending in the Pacific.

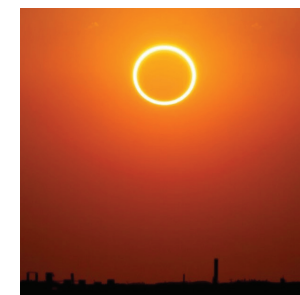


Image: NASA



**Belinda Jensen**  
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*Your hosts of "Grow with KARE"*  
*Fridays 6 pm. Saturdays 9 am*

## GARDENING TIPS

- ▷ June is all about regular, consistent maintenance of your plants; in short, remember to weed, water, and feed your plants, and do it often.
- ▷ Set lawnmower blades on high to reduce turf stress and conserve water during the summer.



Find more  
gardening tips:  
[kare11.com/grow](http://kare11.com/grow)



STEVE PIKALA | BLACK-EYED SUSANS | NORTH OAKS, MN

## SPECIES OF THE MONTH

### Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

A favorite roadside wildflower, the black-eyed Susan begins blooming each year around the summer solstice. This native prairie plant with bright blossoms is one of the “55-mile-per-hour plants” that can be identified from a fast-moving vehicle. However, to appreciate its real beauty, a person should walk in a field, prairie, open forest, or roadside ditch among hundreds of them. Each blossom has 10 to 20 yellow petals called ray flowers, and a chocolate-colored, rounded, raised central cone with disk-type flowers. Individual flower heads are about two to three inches wide and stand one to three feet high on a rough hairy stem. The seeds provide abundant food for American goldfinches and other animals. Their namesake “Susan” remains unknown.