

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

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Beavers can be seen feeding and grooming. When not eating their summer diet, which is mostly grasses, ferns, and aquatic plants, they spend a lot of time cleaning themselves or each other.

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Native summer-blooming plants are starting to flower. Look for **milkweeds** (common, swamp, and butterfly weed), nodding onion, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, native honeysuckle, and more. Also, check out all the butterflies and native bees that are collecting nectar and pollen from these important food sources.



8

When near a stream on overcast days, look for very large—4 to 5 inches—grayish dobsonflies with long curved mandibles. The larvae, hellgrammites, live in the stream for weeks but the adults don't eat and have only a few days to find mates and lay eggs to start the next generation.

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Keep an eye out for ripening blueberries on rocky hillsides and woodland clearings. Lowbush blueberries are found in dry, shady uplands while highbush blueberries are found in sunnier, low-lying areas near wetlands.

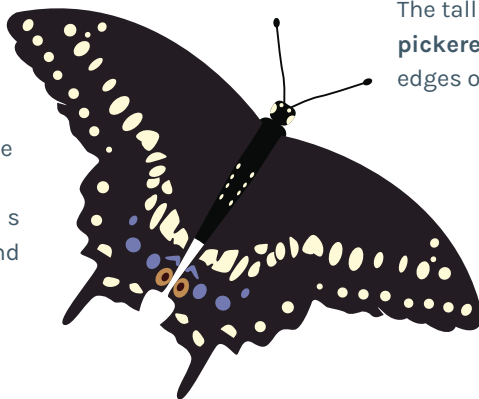
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Full moon



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If you have any dill, carrot, parsley, or celery in your garden, watch for female **Black Swallowtails** as they flit from leaf to leaf laying a single egg at each spot. Also, look for them in fields around Queen Anne's lace, which is in the same plant family.



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When juvenile Red-tailed Hawks have to start hunting for themselves, they may spend several days giving their high-pitched squealing food call almost incessantly.

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Around field edges and orchards, watch for Eastern Bluebirds feeding their newly fledged spotted young, which look a lot like young American Robins. Bluebirds and robins both belong to the thrush group and their familial relationship is easily seen in their fledglings.

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Both white lacy meadowsweet and striking pink steeplebush flower in old fields, while purple-fringed orchids bloom in wetlands.

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Female goldfinches fly in search of the downy fibers of thistle to incorporate in their nest building.



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In sunny wet meadows, look for the white blooms of common dogbane (Indian hemp) and the hummingbird moths that use them as larval host plants. Get close to the plants, and you may be rewarded with the sight of a small, iridescent green and copper dogbane leaf beetle—one of our most beautiful beetles.

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The tall lavender spikes of blooming **pickerelweed** appear around the edges of shallow ponds.

