



# 2018 MARCH

Native to the eastern United States, *Sanguinaria canadensis* is a lovely spring blooming perennial. Flower stalks (6 to 8 inches high), wrapped by one individual leaf, emerge in May and open to reveal dazzling white flowers with 8 to 12 petals and bright yellow stamens; bees flock to this early bloomer. The blue-grey-green, 4 to 5 inch-wide lobed leaves are attractive after the flower fades. Perfect for a woodland garden and hardy to Zone 3, bloodroot grows best in morning sun and afternoon shade, in a well-drained, organic soil; it will usually go dormant in mid-summer. Note that the common name, bloodroot, comes from the reddish sap found in the foliage and roots, which is both caustic and poisonous, therefore the the plant should not be handled or ingested.

SUNDAY							MONDAY							TUESDAY							WEDNESDAY							THURSDAY							FRIDAY							SATURDAY																																																																																																																																																									
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28</p>																												<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>																												<p><b>1</b> Sunrise 6:23 Sunset 5:37 ○ Full Moon</p> <p>Test soil before the spring rush: <a href="http://umass.edu/soiltest">umass.edu/soiltest</a>.</p>																												<p><b>2</b> Sunrise 6:21 Sunset 5:38</p> <p>Witchhazels can provide a showy flower display in late winter.</p>																												<p><b>3</b> Sunrise 6:19 Sunset 5:40</p> <p>Witchhazels bloom in shades from yellow, to orange, to copper, to red.</p>																																																																																			
<p><b>4</b> Sunrise 6:18 Sunset 5:41</p> <p>Plum and cherry trees with swollen branches are likely affected by black knot canker.</p>																												<p><b>5</b> Sunrise 6:16 Sunset 5:42</p> <p>Pruning branches affected by black knot will help reduce new infections in the spring.</p>																												<p><b>6</b> Sunrise 6:14 Sunset 5:43</p> <p>Sharpen mower blades before mowing season begins.</p>																												<p><b>7</b> Sunrise 6:13 Sunset 5:44</p> <p>Cold injury can happen when plants begin to de-acclimate in late winter.</p>																												<p><b>8</b> Sunrise 6:11 Sunset 5:46</p> <p>Limestone can be applied to lawns and gardens any time that the soil isn't frozen.</p>																												<p><b>9</b> Sunrise 6:09 Sunset 5:47 ● Last Quarter Moon</p> <p>Pussy willow 'flowers' are technically catkins, no pun intended.</p>																												<p><b>10</b> Sunrise 6:08 Sunset 5:48</p> <p>March is a good month to move trees and shrubs, if the soil is workable.</p>																											
<p><b>11</b> Sunrise 7:06 Sunset 6:49 Daylight Saving Time begins</p> <p>Cultivating soil while wet or frozen can severely damage soil structure.</p>																												<p><b>12</b> Sunrise 7:04 Sunset 6:50</p> <p>Shorten perches to discourage grackles from monopolizing the bird feeder.</p>																												<p><b>13</b> Sunrise 7:03 Sunset 6:51</p> <p>Monitor hemlocks for the white, cottony egg masses of the hemlock woolly adelgid.</p>																												<p><b>14</b> Sunrise 7:01 Sunset 6:53</p> <p>Maple sap flow is triggered by nights below freezing and days above freezing.</p>																												<p><b>15</b> Sunrise 6:59 Sunset 6:54</p> <p>Syrup yield depends on the sugar content of the sap, which ranges from 1–5%.</p>																												<p><b>16</b> Sunrise 6:57 Sunset 6:55</p> <p>Winters with little snow cover can cause loss of turf color, from chlorophyll degradation.</p>																												<p><b>17</b> Sunrise 6:56 Sunset 6:56 ● New Moon St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>Vole damage to lawns is typically superficial, but vole chewing on shrubs can be destructive.</p>																											
<p><b>18</b> Sunrise 6:54 Sunset 6:57</p> <p>Sow pea seeds about 1" deep as soon as the soil reaches 45° F.</p>																												<p><b>19</b> Sunrise 6:52 Sunset 6:58</p> <p>This is a great time to prune foliage shrubs like yew, privet, holly, or inkberry.</p>																												<p><b>20</b> Sunrise 6:51 Sunset 6:59 Vernal Equinox</p> <p>Night and day are approximately equal in duration today.</p>																												<p><b>21</b> Sunrise 6:49 Sunset 7:01</p> <p>'Ephemeral' plants emerge quickly and have a short life cycle.</p>																												<p><b>22</b> Sunrise 6:47 Sunset 7:02</p> <p>Dutchman's breeches (<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>) is an example of a spring ephemeral species.</p>																												<p><b>23</b> Sunrise 6:45 Sunset 7:03</p> <p>Make sure that seed starting containers have adequate drainage.</p>																												<p><b>24</b> Sunrise 6:44 Sunset 7:04 ● First Quarter Moon</p> <p>A serrated bread knife works great for cutting back ornamental grasses.</p>																											
<p><b>25</b> Sunrise 6:42 Sunset 7:05 Palm Sunday</p> <p>Harden off indoor grown seedlings before planting outdoors.</p>																												<p><b>26</b> Sunrise 6:40 Sunset 7:06</p> <p>Winter moth eggs are first green, then orange, then blue prior to hatching.</p>																												<p><b>27</b> Sunrise 6:38 Sunset 7:07</p> <p>Grow lights with higher color temperatures (5500–6500K) approximate natural daylight.</p>																												<p><b>28</b> Sunrise 6:37 Sunset 7:09</p> <p>Wait to fertilize the lawn until at least 50% green up occurs.</p>																												<p><b>29</b> Sunrise 6:35 Sunset 7:10</p> <p>Out like a lamb? Take advantage of nicer days to do some yard and garden chores.</p>																												<p><b>30</b> Sunrise 6:33 Sunset 7:11 Good Friday &amp; Passover</p> <p>Position lights about 4" from the tops of plants and raise them as the plants grow.</p>																												<p><b>31</b> Sunrise 6:32 Sunset 7:12 ○ Full Moon</p> <p>Try growing tomatillos for authentic salsa verde this year.</p>																											