

Lunar Gardening: Planting by the Phases of the Moon

For some reason, planting by the phases of the moon is somewhat controversial. Perhaps some folks just write it off because it sounds like new-age, astrology, voodoo, mumbo jumbo, hippie crap. And "lunar gardening" does kind of sound like, pardon the pun, lunacy, except when you consider that plants have been dealing with the celestial habits of the moon equally as long as they've been dealing with the sun's. And like the sun, the moon has a very real effect on the Earth and it's systems. The changing of the ocean's tides aren't some magical occurrence.

Throughout the cycling of the Moon's phases, there are changes in lunar gravity and light that affect different aspects of plant growth. One of the best uses for these changes is timing when to plant seeds or transplant seedlings, because extra light or less gravity at the right time can help to establish young plants, giving them a strong start to grow into strong adults.

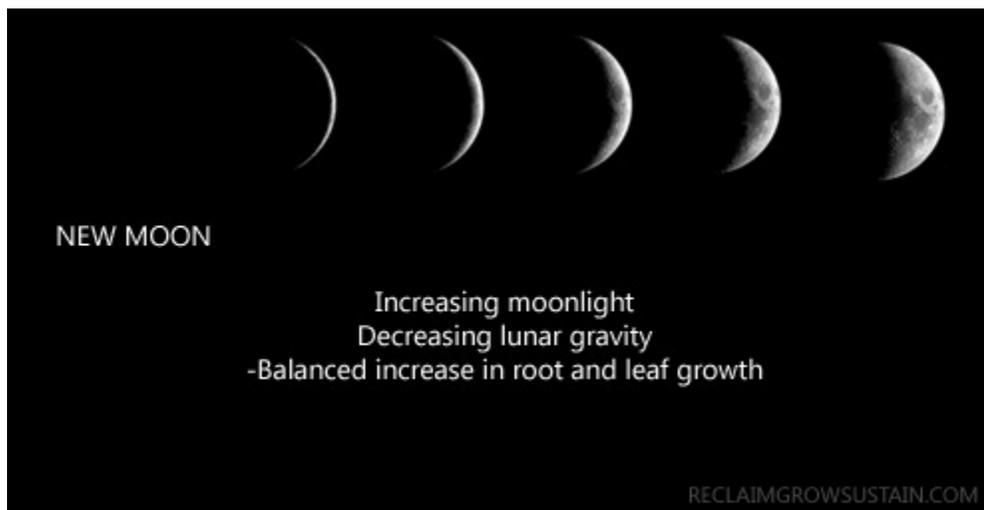
Now, these effects aren't so powerful that planting or transplanting during the wrong phase is going to make or break your garden's productivity, but they do provide an advantage. And if all it takes to improve the health and quality of your plants is doing something as simple as changing your planting dates by a week or two, why not?

Short germinating seeds: 1-7 days

Long germinating seeds: 8-21 days

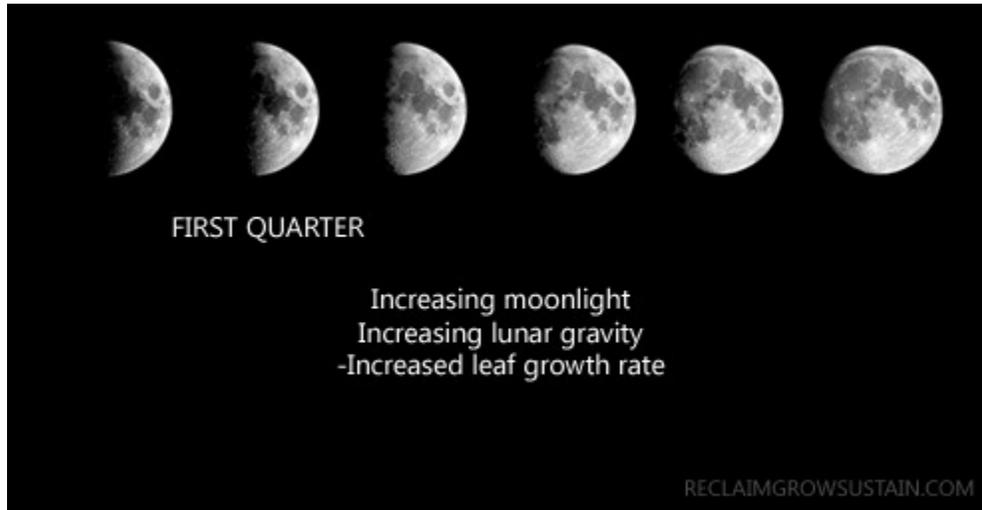
Extra long-germinating seeds: 22-28 days

FIRST 6 DAYS



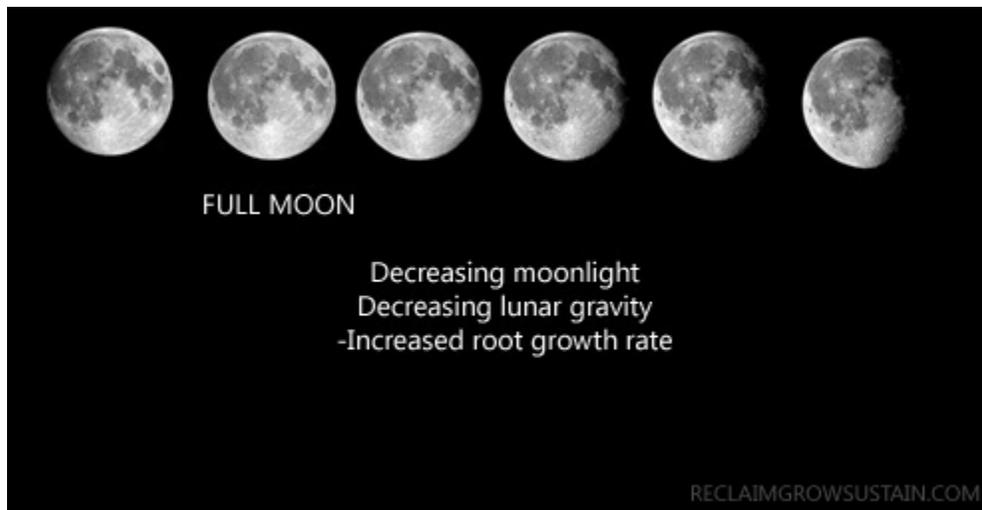
Right at the beginning (or even 1 or 2 days before the new moon) of this phase is the time to plant short- and extra long-germinating seeds in flats and/or beds, and transplant any long germinating seedlings that were planted in flats to beds.

SECOND 6 DAYS



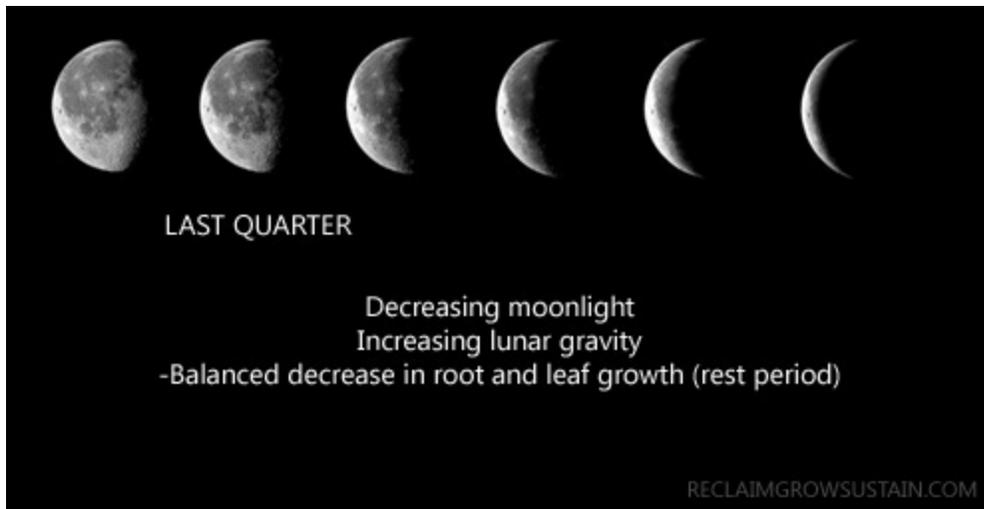
No planting or transplanting takes place during this period.

THIRD 6 DAYS



During this time (preferably on the day of the full moon) transplant short- and extra long-germinating seeds from flats into beds and plant long-germinating seeds in flats and/or beds.

FOURTH 6 DAYS



No planting or transplanting takes place during this period.