

TOPIC: **How to work with NATURE'S MOON CYCLES for a healthy productive garden**

GUEST SPEAKER : **Anne Gibson**

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 27 November 2018

Ann spoke about the ancient practice of moon/lunar gardening where gardening is aligned with Nature's rhythms. Knowledge of the combined gravitational pull of the Sun and Moon to create a high or low sap flow in plants is used to determine best garden activities for that time of the month. The moon also has an influence on soil moisture levels.

Waxing Phase - from New to Full Moon

- High sap flow and above ground growth
- Foliage, flower and fruit flourish
- Phase for taking cuttings (more moisture means more nutrients - better strike rate)
- Faster germination of seeds of above ground crops - leafy vegetables, herbs
- Phase to feed soil and water - fast absorption
- Plant fruit trees and ornamentals
- Graft trees and divide plants
- Prune and cut back for fast regrowth

Full Moon

- Poor time for planting 12 hours either side of full moon

Waning Phase - from Full to New Moon

- Decreasing light and sap concentration
- Above ground growth slows
- Rest/Dormant period for last quarter - 'breathing time'
- Best time to grow root crops
- Best time for bulbs and rhizomes such as grass seed growing
- Best time for mowing to slow down grass regrowth
- Best time to prune hedges if wanting to retard growth
- Good time to spray weeds, make compost, mulch, apply solid fertiliser, harvest

New Moon

- Poor time for planting 12 hours either side of new moon

Anne stressed the benefits of working with Nature - giving a plant what it wants, when it wants it. Her experiments with the timing of garden activities to the moon's phases have resulted in healthier plants ... more resistant to pests and disease.

A MOON CALENDAR is available for purchase - details on Anne's website.
Comprehensive information on this topic is available on Anne's website.