

Sky Highlights for April

April 2	First quarter moon
April 9	Full Moon. Named the Egg or Grass Moon
April 12	Neptune at conjunction
April 17	Last quarter moon
April 22	Peak of Lyrid meteor shower
April 24	New moon
April 26	Mercury at greatest elongation

Planets Visible This Month

Mercury— This is the best opportunity for viewing Mercury all year. Magnitude -1 in the west-northwest 45 minutes after sunset.

Venus— Just visible in the eastern sky less than an hour before sunrise. Magnitude -4.1

Mars— Barely visible before sunrise, closing in on Venus by the 22nd.

Jupiter— Rising 2 _ hours before the sun by mid month. Magnitude -2.1

Saturn— Absolutely beautiful in the south all night in Leo. At magnitude +0.7, with it's rings nearly edge-on. Don't miss it!

Sky Highlights for May

May 1	First quarter moon
May 6	Eta Aquarid meteor shower; bright moon interferes
May 8	Full Moon. Known as the Flower, Milk or Planting Moon
May 17	Last quarter moon Saturn ends retrograde
May 18	Mercury in inferior conjunction
May 20	Vernal equinox
May 24	New moon
May 30	First quarter moon

Planets Visible This Month

Mercury— On the 1st at +1.2 magnitude, sets 1 _ hours after sunset. One week later , dims to +2.5 and sets 30 minutes after sunset. No wonder it was named after the swift messenger of the gods!

Venus— Brilliant at magnitude -4.5 as a morning star, rising 2 hours before sunrise.

Mars— Still low in the east in morning twilight

Jupiter— Still low in the east in morning twilight, above and to the south of Mars

Saturn— High in the south in Leo, setting at 3.a.m. The rings reach their greatest inclination for the year at mid-month, though still only 4°. They'll start visibly closing up again by the end of the month.

NOTES:

Planetary pairing 30 minutes before sunrise:

May 25– Jupiter (mag. -2.4) and Neptune (mag. +8.9) 0.5° apart . They'll stay within 1° of each other through July 21.