

Sky Highlights for August

August 5	Full Moon. Named Grain or Green Corn Moon
August 12	Peak of the Perseid meteor shower.
August 13	Last quarter moon
August 14	Jupiter at opposition
August 17	Neptune at opposition
August 19	New moon
August 24	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation
August 26	First quarter moon

NOTE: *Perseid meteor shower*

Unfortunately, a waning gibbous moon rising around 11PM will wash out many meteors this year. But, if you face away from the moon and get under dark skies, you should still be able to pick up some bright Perseids.

Planets Visible This Month

Mercury— Only 10° above the western horizon at magnitude -0.3, it'll be hard to spot

Venus— Rising in the eastern sky 3 hours before dawn. Magnitude -4

Mars— Mars rises 5 hours before sunrise in Taurus. Magnitude 1.1

Jupiter— At opposition this month, magnitude -2.9, Jupiter is definitely the highlight of the night sky. In Capricornus.

Saturn— Sets less than 90 minutes after the sun by mid-month. Rings are only tilted at 1.1°.

Neptune— Also reaching opposition this month, though only at magnitude 7.8, Neptune can be found about 3° northeast of Jupiter

Sky Highlights for September

September 6	Full Moon. Harvest Moon, also known as the Fruit Moon
September 4	Saturn's rings are exactly edge-on
September 12	Last quarter moon
September 17	Uranus at opposition Saturn in conjunction
September 18	New moon
September 19	Mercury at inferior conjunction
September 22	Autumnal equinox
September 25	First quarter moon

Planets Visible This Month

Mercury— Barely visible at dusk at month's end at magnitude -1.4

Venus— Rises just under 3 hours before sunrise. Magnitude -3.9. Passes south of the Beehive Luster (m44) Sept. 1 & 2.

Mars— Rising around 1 a.m. (UT0600) at magnitude +0.9, Mars has moved from Taurus into Gemini

Jupiter— At magnitude -2.7 in Capricornus. **See note below**

Saturn— The rings disappear on September, but the planet is so near the sun it'll be hard to see

NOTE:

Jupiter's moons are always fun to watch as they move around the giant planet. On the 27th, between UT 0330 and 0400, Europa and Callisto transit the planet, then form a little triangle with Ganymede, then move into a straight line. A Jovian synchronized dance move!