



GRANDMOTHER MOON: Gardening in harmony with nature

By Lynn Moreau

According to First Nations people, everything in Creation has a spirit. The plants, the trees, the water, the wind, the rocks and the mountains have a spirit. We refer to the Moon as Grandmother Moon and pay great respect to her.

When it comes to gardening, the cycles of the moon determine the changes that come with each month. They indicate the times for planting, harvesting, hunting and gathering. In the Anishnaabe calendar the names of each month include the word 'moon' and reflect the close connection between cycles of the moon and plant and animal life.

With regards to agriculture consider the cycles of Grandmother Moon as it strongly affects the earth by changing the levels of moisture in the soil. The moon has a gravitational pull on the Earth and causes the tides

to rise and fall. Planting in alignment with the phases of the moon can result in better germination and growth of plants; this has been known for generations. With more water being pulled closer to the surface of the soil, plants are better able to soak it up. This is important during the germination phase, when seeds need to be well saturated with water so they can burst from their hard shells.

There are two periods in the lunar cycle, waxing (when the moon is getting larger), and waning (when the moon is getting smaller).

During the waxing of the moon, it is best to plant flowers, fruits and vegetables that bear crops above the ground, such as corn, tomatoes, watermelon and zucchini. It is also an excellent time to plant fruits with seeds that grow on the inside of their fruit such as squash and beans. This can be done any time from the new

moon to the day it is full. The gradual increase in the light of the moon each night will stimulate the growth of leaves and stems.

As for the waning moon, it is better to plant root crops such as onions, carrots and potatoes. This planting is best done from the day after a full moon to the day before it is new again. The decrease in moonlight each night will result in growth of roots and bulbs.

The waning moon has a weaker gravitational pull and is not as good of a time for planting. During this period you can complete other gardening activities such as transplanting and fertilizing.

The New Moon is a good time to plant crops with seeds that appear on the outside of the fruit, like broccoli, cauliflower or celery. By working with the cycles of the moon you will be growing in harmony with nature.



RESOURCES: Agriculture Programs



4-H Ontario is a non profit youth development organization that spans 10 provinces across Canada and 70 countries across the world. 4-H is open to youth ages 6 to 21 and engaged volunteer leaders to learn about agriculture through youth engagement and hands-on learning. Youth in 4 H have the freedom to learn and tackle non-agricultural topics that are important to them. To start a club or join 4H, check out their website at <https://4-hontario.ca/>



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
To be eligible for the Agricultural Climate Solutions program, applicants must form a large network of partnerships within a Province, including agricultural non-profits, Indigenous organizations and environmental groups. Projects in each province will be selected based on the potential to store carbon and/or reduce greenhouse gases. Grant funding of up to \$100,000 is being provided to support them in developing a network of participants. Find out more here: <https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agriculture-and-the-environment/>



**Greenhouse Production
& Vertical Farming
Webinars**



WATCH FOR DATES!

MAY 6: GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION | **MAY 13:** VERTICAL FARMING

As technology becomes available, new crops and production methods are expanding opportunities in northern Ontario.

Learn from the experts about some of the key things to consider when starting a project, what resources are available to help you on your way, and how municipalities can play a role in supporting sector growth.





BEEKEEPING:

Tips for Beginner Beekeepers

By Lynn Moreau

Spring is an excellent time to begin beekeeping. If you are starting a new bee yard, here are some tips to get you started.

Now is time to set up your electric fence and prepare your hive for receiving your first nucleus colony, or nuc. This can be done by placing your hive on a wood pallet or other structure to get your colony up off the ground.

As a beginning beekeeper, it is important to find a mentor; someone who can show you hands-on how to do tasks in your first year of beekeeping. I suggest you reach out to the Ontario Beekeepers Association <https://www.ontariobee.com>. They can provide contacts for local clubs and provide education and information.

If you already have a beehive, there are some essential tasks that should be done in the spring.

During the winter, the bees will have used up most of their honey stores and so in the spring, you may need to supply food until there are blooming flowers and trees to provide nectar and pollen.

If you don't feed your bees, they could either starve to death or their early spring production of honey may be affected.

Feeding can be done through the use of pollen patties which are placed on top of your frames, or through providing a sugar syrup while the weather remains cool. Sugar water is normally mixed at a ratio of 1:1 in spring and 1:2 in fall. This is because in the fall the syrup mimics the

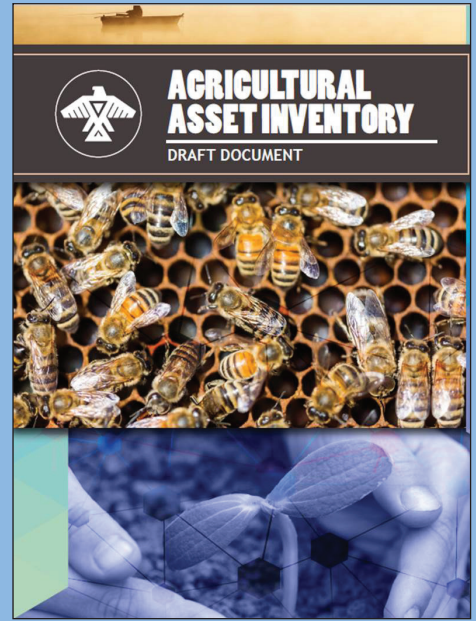
consistency of honey, while in the spring it is more the consistency of nectar. Heating the water used will help to dissolve all the sugar crystals when preparing sugar syrup.

Once the weather has warmed sufficiently, it is time to remove your winter covers or wraps. Select a warm day with little wind. You can remove the top and inner cover of your hive and see if your bees are still alive. If your hive is weak you will have very little brood but your hive is strong it will have an abundance of bees and brood. Look for your queen. If the queen has died you will need to replace her.

Your hive needs a spring cleaning and this can be done by taking out one frame at a time and removing dead bees. You may see mold but the bees will remove any mold themselves. Your bottom board will need to be scraped and dead bees removed. The positions of your top box and bottom box need to be reversed and you should rearrange your frames to make more room for the bees to begin laying new brood.

Spring is also the time to treat your hives for American foulbrood using a medicine called Oxytet. This treatment has to be purchased from a vet. American foulbrood attacks honey bee larvae, weakening the colony and can lead to its death within three weeks.

By spring cleaning your hive, you will leave room for the bees to begin their important work! From here on in things should be as 'Sweet as can Bee!' Enjoy!



DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ASSET INVENTORY REPORT

The Anishinabek Nation has completed the Agriculture Asset Inventory Report and invite you to provide your input and comments on this report.

Are you aware of other First Nation businesses, social enterprises and community-based initiatives that have not been included in the document?

AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Anishinabek Nation is currently developing an agriculture strategic plan. We would like your input.

To obtain a copy and share any comments contact Lynn Moreau, Lands and Resources Coordinator, Agriculture and Food, at her email: lynn.moreau@anishinabek.ca

EVENTS

AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN AND AROUND ALGOMA

www.rainalgoma.ca/events/



GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

WEBINARS: Thursday, May 6

By attending this webinar, you will gain an understanding of key aspects of greenhouse production, including:

- New technologies
- How to move a project forward
- Lessons learned from people working in this sector

Greenhouses from A to Z: (11:00 am - 12:00 pm)

From Concept to Implementation: (1:00 pm - 2:45 pm)

Panel of Practitioners: (3:00 pm - 4:30 pm)

FIELD AND BED PREPARATION:

Monday, May 10 (2:30 pm - 4:00 pm) Online via Zoom -

link will be sent to registrants

Members \$20 Register; Standard \$30 Register

INTRODUCTION TO WEED MANAGEMENT:

Wednesday May 12 (2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)

Online via Zoom - link will be sent to registrants

Members \$20 Register; Standard \$30 Register

VERTICAL FARMING WEBINAR:

Thursday, May 13 You will gain an understanding of key aspects of vertical farming, including:

- New technologies
- Advantages and limitations
- Lessons learned from people working in this sector

Let's Start at the Beginning: What is Vertical Farming?

(11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Let's Grow Up! Vertical Farming Panel: (1:00 pm - 2:15 pm)

Lettuce Hear From Some Other Innovators in the Field:

(2:30 pm - 3:45 pm) Presentations by Artic Research

Foundation in Nunavut and Boréal's Fresh Farms.

IRRIGATION PRINCIPLES:

Monday May 17 (2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)

Online via Zoom - link will be sent to registrants

Members \$20 Register; Standard \$30 Register

Waawaaskone Giizis (Flower Moon) - May



The fifth moon of Creation is Flower Moon, where all plants display their Spirit sides for all the world to see. This life-giving energy is one of the most powerful healing medicines on Mother Earth. During this moon we are encouraged to explore our Spiritual essences.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

VALLEYFIELD FARM is Looking for a Farm Field Crew/ Team Lead. Location is Valleyfield Farm, Echo Bay, near Sault Ste. Marie. To apply or for more information contact, hello@valleyfieldfarm.ca



KIIN MIINWAA ENDADIZIWINAN LANDS AND RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

The Lands and Resources Department was established within the Anishinabek Nation in the spring of 2007. Currently, there are four program areas with staffing capabilities. These include: Water Resources, Minerals and Mining, Trapping, and Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement.

MISSION

The Lands and Resources mission is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources by supporting the goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES/CAPACITY BUILDING

By creating opportunities our communities are empowered to increase the natural, technical and financial capacity derived and generated from our lands and natural resources."

Jurisdiction and Treaty Rights - "by building and preserving Anishinabek laws within our territories, communities can continue to assert and exercise jurisdiction, implementing ownership of lands, water and resources."

Access to Lands and Resources - "our communities are strengthened by continuous advocacy efforts to increase access to lands and resources."



LYNN MOREAU is a Lands and Resources Program Coordinator with the Anishinabek Nation where she is responsible for the Agriculture Portfolio.

Originally from Callander, Ontario, Lynn now lives in Bonfield where she is co-owner of Green Legacy Farm with her husband Dean.

Lynn holds an Environmental Science degree

from Trent University and a Fish and Wildlife Technician Diploma from Sault College. Lynn can assist with funding application processes and has agricultural experience in vegetable and perennial growing, chicken farming, maple syrup production and aquaculture.



Lynn Moreau
Program Coordinator,
Agriculture and Food
Lands and Resources Department

Anishinabek Nation
1 Migizii Miikan
Nipissing First Nation
P.O. Box 711, 1 Migizii Miikan

North Bay, Ontario PIB 8J8
Tel: (705) 497-9127 ext. 2334
Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200
Website: www.anishinabek.ca