

HOW TO sketch a fireball

With Ron Larter

Yearly meteor showers

You're more likely to see a fireball during a meteor shower, and this table shows the main meteor showers of the year.

These showers are known to be definitely active at the moment, and will show an upsurge in activity. The list is based on the 2009 revision of the International Meteor Organization's *Working List of Visual Meteor Showers*, which is based on the most accurate global data available from 1988-2008.

However, meteor showers are not fixed things, but are constantly changing, some faster than others, so the predictions here may differ from reality.

* ZHR stands for zentral hourly rate, which is how astronomers indicate the expected strength of a meteor shower. It is the expected number of meteors seen under perfect conditions with the radiant position (the point that the meteors appear to be coming from) directly overhead. In all likelihood, there won't be as many meteors as this visible under real conditions.

Dates	Meteor shower name	Peak time	ZHR* / Rating	Radiant position (RA)	Radiant position (Dec)
1 - 5 January	Quadrantids	3 / 4 January	120 / Strong	15h 20m	+49°
16 - 25 April	Lyrids	22 April	18 / Strong	18h 04m	+34°
19 April - 28 May	Eta Aquarids	6 May	85 / Strong	22h 32m	-01°
22 June - 2 July	June Bootids	23 / 24 June	0-100+ / Irregular	14h 56m	+48°
12 July - 19 August	Delta Aquarids	28 July	15 / Strong	22h 36m	-16°
3 July - 15 August	Alpha Capricornids	30 July	5 / Medium	20h 28m	-10°
17 July - 24 August	Perseids	12 / 13 August	100 / Strong	03h 16m	+58°
3 - 25 August	Kappa Cygnids	18 August	3 / Medium	19h 04m	+59°
25 August - 8 September	Alpha Aurigids	1 September	6 / Medium	05h 36m	+42°
5 - 17 September	September Perseids	Around 9 September	5 / Medium	04h 00m	+47°
18 September - 10 October	Delta Aurigids	Around 29 September	3 / Medium	05h 28m	+49°
6 - 10 October	Draconids	8 / 9 October	Variable / Irregular	17h 28m	+54°
2 October - 7 November	Orionids	21 October	30 / Strong	06h 20m	+16°
25 September - 25 November	Southern Taurids	5 November	5 / Medium	03h 28m	+15°
25 September - 25 November	Northern Taurids	12 November	5 / Medium	03h 52m	+22°
10 - 23 November	Leonids	17 November	Variable / Irregular	10h 08m	+22°
15 - 25 November	Alpha Monocerotids	21 November	Variable / Irregular	07h 52m	+01°
7 - 17 December	Geminids	13 / 14 December	120 / Strong	07h 28m	+33°
5 December - 31 January	December Leo Minorids	20 December	5 / Medium	10h 44m	+30°
12 - 23 December	Coma Berenicids	20 December	3 / Medium	12h 20m	+21°
17 - 26 December	Ursids	22 December	10 / Strong	14h 28m	+76°