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## (वेदचक्षु)

## Remedial plants of the moon: A scientific insight

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### Abstract

The biological interactions of organisms with the astral system are inherited through ages. Vedic Astrology depends on moon movement, focuses only on visible planets and utilize only traditional rulerships whereas, Western astrology depends on sun movement, focuses on all major planets such as Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and attribute rulership based on the Zodiac signs and planetary positions. Though both the system differs in origin and certain areas, both these types of astrology is used to relieve problems in human life and helps in making life happy. Sages, Saints, Hermits, Acharyas and Astrologers of the past have recommended a lot of remedies to ward off the malefic effects of the planet either by donating articles associated with the planet, recite the mantras, wear the precious stones, wearing assigned roots of plants in right arm or by planting prescribed planets associated symbolic plants or by consuming them. There are innumerable astrologically proven, remedial plants and herbs available in the market. However, there is a lack of documentation of evidence or background information, in a simple and easy to understand way that is relatable to current scientific methodologies. This article is a first attempt to explore the remedial plants of moon mentioned in Vedic and Western astrology system which in turn decipher the nuances behind this relationship of moon and its associated remedial plants. 90 plants are used as remedial plants for moon. Analysis of remedial plants of moon suggest that habitat, flower colour, moon phases and friendly planets colour, intensity of afflictions and the time of performing of remedial measure plays a major role in assigning and predicting the remedial plants to moon.

**Keywords:** Astrology, Flower colour, Habitat, Moon, Planets, Remedial plants

### 1. Introduction

All things in the universe is made up of energy and matter which has dual nature as it possess both wave and particle properties. The sun, a yellow dwarf star located at the centre of the Solar system orbits 93 million miles away from earth is the main source of energy for plants and other living organisms through food chain. It gives spirit and life to all planets. The moon, the earth's only natural satellite lack light of its own but conducts the energy lent by sun and reflects mostly sunlight and little earthlight from the moon surface where sunlight strikes there by producing moonlight. It rules over the living organisms on the earth. The earth's two main sources of light are sun and moon. However in solar system, galactic cosmic rays and solar particle events are the two main sources of radiation. Galactic cosmic rays originate from sun and outside of the solar system (by our own galaxy and from distant galaxies) are high energy protons and atomic nuclei that move through space at nearly the speed of light whereas, solar particle events are mostly protons emitted by the sun. The biological consequences of these radiations may be either positive or negative or neutral depending upon the intensity, time period, electron to proton ratios and acceleration of particles.

In astrology, the positive and negative effects of radiation from celestial bodies are termed respectively as benefic and malefic. Various remedial measures are suggested to emancipate the malefic effects in both Vedic and western astrology. It includes specific mantra, yantra, colours, offerings during pooja, donations, watering plants, planting plants, tie plant parts around the body, gems and stones. Plants or plant products are used as remedial measures since antiquity but the exact mechanisms of association to celestial bodies remains a mystery. This brings a quest to unravel the mystery about the celestial bodies associated remedial plants. Several scientific studies are reported regarding the lunar influences on environmental and biological system. Keeping this in view, the present study was made to understand about the various remedial plants associated to moon with respect to Vedic and Western astrology as both the system has wider cultural practice compared to other astrological systems.

## 2. Literature survey and data collection

The literature survey was systematically carried out during December 2019 to March 2021. The information was gathered primarily from like Religious, Vedic, ancient and modern Astrology books. Secondary information was collected through electronic resources. Data collected included plant species assigned to moon used to pacify the malefic effects. Plants associated to moon were mentioned in common name and there was a difficulty in equating vast number of scattered references in non-botanical terms of ancient plants with modern terminology. Hence, scrutinization of remedial plants and correct identification of scientific name becomes mandatory before scientific validation to avoid ambiguity in preparing the plant list. Thus the scientific name validation is made between the plants of the ancients and those of today with utmost care in order to avoid faulty identification. The correctness of the species and family names were checked using the online theplantlist.org database. The English common names alone are included in the table due to imprecise nature or confusions in Etymology.

## 3. Moon in Astronomy and astrology

Astronomically, a planet is a spherical ball of rock or gas that orbits a star. Though the moon is a spherical ball of rock, it orbits the Earth and not the sun. The sun orbits and move around the center mass of the Milky Way galaxy but not another star. Thus sun and moon are not planets. The Moon's day Monday and characters of femininity, beauty, eyesight, coolness, general well being and happiness are assigned to Moon. In addition it is also associated with the functions of mind, indicative of all senses and their ability to perceive life in its splendor though the mercury is called intellect as it conceptualize the process of intellectualization. Moon the lord of 4th house provide good results if placed in

houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 whereas the 6th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th houses are bad for the Moon. Affliction to Moon causes diseases related to windy, phlegmatic and blood as the nature is Kapha and watery.

### 3.1 Moon and its Remedial plants

Afflictions of moon cannot be removed completely as it is the manifestation of one's karma but it can be mitigated with appropriate astrological remedies. There are several ways and methods to perform remedies as mentioned earlier. The most effective remedy to ward off moon influences afflicting humans is use of herbs or plants. Remedial herbs are suggested only after a through scrutiny of birth chart as it helps in measuring the intensity of moon afflictions which in turn helpful for predicting or forecasting of remedial herbs. The use of herbs is not advisable to strengthen the weak planets in general by the astrologers since they lack knowledge about the type, quality, selection of herbs that balance out the energy system of human life and the mechanism of energizing or empowering the herbs with mantras. The wrong use of herbs is more harmful than mantras and gemstones as it confuse or disturb the astral level. Remedial herbs can be used singly or in combination based on the intensity of afflictions. Astrological moon remedial herbs or plants suggested for afflictions were compiled (Table 1) and were arranged phylogenetically and then in alphabetic order of the plant botanical name along with the common name, family, flower colour and habitat. The compiled list comprises 90 species representing 2 species each (2.22%) of non-vascular and vascular cryptogams and 86 species of (95.56%) of angiosperms. The non-vascular cryptogams were represented by Algae and Fungi (1 species each).

**Table 1:** Moon and its remedial plants

S.No.	Remedial Plants	Common Name	Family	F	H
<b>Algae</b>					
1	<i>Chondrus crispus</i> Stackh.	Irish moss	Gigartinales	R	SR
<b>Fungi</b>					
2	<i>Agaricus bisporus</i> L.	Mushroom	Agaricaceae	W	DL
<b>Pteridophyte</b>					
3	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i> (L.) Sw	Moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	G	MP
4	<i>Ophioglossum californicum</i> Prantl	Ophioglossum	Ophioglossaceae	G	MP
<b>Angiosperm</b>					
<b>Dicot</b>					
5	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> (Ravelli ex Andre) Rehder	Glossy Abelia	Caprifoliaceae	W	MP
6	<i>Acer palmatum</i> Thunb.	Japanese maple	Sapindaceae	R	MP
7	<i>Althaea officinalis</i> L.	Marshmallow	Malvaceae	W	SM
8	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Nees	Andrographis	Acanthaceae	W	CF
9	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> L.	Columbine	Ranunculaceae	P	MP
10	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> L.	Mugwort	Compositae	P	CP
11	<i>Brassica napus</i> L.	Rape	Brassicaceae	Y	CP
12	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L.	Cabbage	Brassicaceae	Y	CP
13	<i>Brassica rapa</i> L.	Turnip	Brassicaceae	Y	CP
14	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub.	Palash	Leguminosae	O	CF
15	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> L.	Carrisse	Apocynaceae	W	CF
16	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> L.	Ceanothus	Rhamnaceae	W	MP
17	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> Baumg.	Mouse ear	Caryophyllaceae	W	MP
18	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> L.	Fringe	Oleaceae	W	MP
19	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Veldt Grape	Vitaceae	Y	SP
20	<i>Cornus florida</i> L.	Dogwood	Cornaceae	W	WL
21	<i>Crambe cordifolia</i> Steven	Coleworts	Brassicaceae	W	MP
22	<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.	Melon	Cucurbitaceae	Y	CF
23	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	Cucumber	Cucurbitaceae	Y	CF
24	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L.	Pumpkin	Cucurbitaceae	Y	CF
25	<i>Davidia involucreata</i> Baill.	Dove tree	Cornaceae	W	WL

26	<i>Embeliaribes</i> Burm.f.	Embelia	Primulaceae	W	CP
27	<i>Frankenia salina</i> (Molina) I.M.Johnst.	Marsh	Frankeniaceae	P	SM
28	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> J.Ellis.	Gardenia	Rubiaceae	W	WB
29	<i>Gentiana lutea</i> L.	Gentian	Gentianaceae	Y	CP
30	<i>Hedera helix</i> L.	Ivy	Araliaceae	Y	CP
31	<i>Hesperismatronalis</i> L.	Dame's rocket	Brassicaceae	P	CP
32	<i>Hylotelephium telephium</i> (L.)H.Ohba	Orpine	Crassulaceae	P	MP
33	<i>Jasminum officinale</i> L.	Jasmine	Oleaceae	W	MP
34	<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L.	Lettuce	Compositae	Y	MP
35	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standl.	Bottle gourd	Cucurbitaceae	W	MP
36	<i>Lagenaria sphaerica</i> (Sond.) Naudin	Wild Gourd	Cucurbitaceae	W	CF
37	<i>Lepidium sativum</i> L.	Cress	Brassicaceae	W	CP
38	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> L.	Privet	Oleaceae	W	CP
39	<i>Lunaria annua</i> L.	Honesty(Lunaria)	Brassicaceae	P	MP
40	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.	Loosestrife	Lythraceae	P	WB
41	<i>Malus domestica</i> Borkh.	Apple	Rosaceae	W	MP
42	<i>Malva sylvestris</i> L.	Mallow	Malvaceae	P	MP
43	<i>Mandragora officinarum</i> L.	Mandrake	Solanaceae	W	MP
44	<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> L.	Chamomile	Compositae	W	MP
45	<i>Melissa officinalis</i> L.	Lemon Balm	Lamiaceae	W	MP
46	<i>Mimusops hexandra</i> Roxb.	Mimusops	Sapotaceae	W	MP
47	<i>Mimusops kauki</i> L.	Mimusops	Sapotaceae	W	MP
48	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam.	Drumstick tree	Moringaceae	W	MP
49	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> R.Br.	Water cress	Brassicaceae	W	WB
50	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn.	Lotus	Nelumbonaceae	W	WB
51	<i>Nymphaea pubescens</i> Willd.	Lily	Nymphaeaceae	W	WB
52	<i>Oenothera biennis</i> L.	Evening Primrose	Onagraceae	Y	MP
53	<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i> Pall.	Paeony	Paeoniaceae	W	MP
54	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> L.	Poppy	Papaveraceae	P	SP
55	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> L.	Passion Flower	Passifloraceae	P	MP
56	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> L.	Burnet Saxifrage	Apiaceae	P	MP
57	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> L.	Sycamore	Platanaceae	W	MP
58	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Purslane	Portulacaceae	Y	MP
59	<i>Pyrus communis</i> L.	Pear	Rosaceae	W	CP
60	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> L.	Yellow rattle	Orobanchaceae	Y	CP
61	<i>Rosa acicularis</i> Lindl.	Wild Rose	Rosaceae	P	CP
62	<i>Salix babylonica</i> L.	Willow	Salicaceae	Y	CP
63	<i>Salvia sclarea</i> L.	Clary Sage	Lamiaceae	P	CP
64	<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Sandalwood	Santalaceae	P	CP
65	<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i> Mill.	White Saxifrage	Saxifrangaceae	W	MP
66	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> L.	Saxifrage	Saxifrangaceae	P	MP
67	<i>Senecio candicans</i> Wall.	Sea cabbage	Compositae	Y	MP
68	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Sesame	Pedaliaceae	W	MP
69	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	Bala	Malvaceae	Y	MP
70	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> L.	Purple Pea Eggplant	Solanaceae	P	MP
71	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> (L.) Jacq.	American mahogany	Meliaceae	Y	MP
72	<i>Symphytum officinale</i> L.	Comfrey	Boraginaceae	W	MP
73	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i> L.	Field Penny	Brassicaceae	W	CF
74	<i>Tilia americana</i> L.	Linden	Malvaceae	Y	MP
75	<i>Ulmus rubra</i> Muhl.	Slippery Elm	Ulmaceae	R	MP
76	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> L.	Common speedwell	Plantaginaceae	B	MP
<b>Monocot</b>					
77	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f.	Aloe	Xanthorrhoeaceae	Y	SP
78	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Shatavari	Asparagaceae	W	SP
79	<i>Chlorophytum borivillianum</i> Santapau&R.R.Fern	White musali	Asparagaceae	W	WP
80	<i>Dracaena cinnabari</i> Balf.f	Dragon blood tree	Asparagaceae	W	WP
81	<i>Euterpe oleracea</i> Mart.	Acai	Arecaceae	Y	WP
82	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Barley	Poaceae	Y	WP
83	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L.	Yellow water flag	Iridaceae	Y	WP
84	<i>Iris × germanica</i> L.	Iris	Iridaceae	P	WP
85	<i>Lilium lancifolium</i> Thunb.	Lily	Liliaceae	O	WP
86	<i>Musa × paradisiaca</i> L.	Banana	Musaceae	Y	WP
87	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> (Walter) Elliot	Solomon's-seal	Asparagaceae	W	MP
88	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.	Sugarcane	Poaceae	W	MP
89	<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i> (L.)Schleid	Duckmeat	Araceae	G	WB
90	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Wheat	Poaceae	G	MP

\*Flower colour (F): R - Red, W - White, G - Green, Y - Yellow, P - Purple, O - Orange, B - Blue.

\*\*Habitat (H): MP - Moist places, WB - Water bodies, WP - Wet places, CF - Cultivated fields, CP - Cool places, SP - Shade places, SR - Sea rocks, DL - Decaying liters, SM - Marshy places, WL - Woodlands

### 3.2 Remedial plant analysis

The remedial plant list were analysed with respect to habitat (Table 2) and flower colour (Table 3) to bring out the secret behind the correspondences.

#### 3.2.1 Habitat analysis

The remedial plants were grown in 10 different habitats as shown in Table 2. Maximum number of plants (42) grow in moist places followed by cool places (16), cultivated fields and wet places (8 each), water bodies (6), shade places (4), woodland and marshy places (2 each), decaying liters and sea rocks (1 each). All the habitats are wet or moist which coincides with the watery nature of moon. This clearly explains that only the plants grown in or near watery places were assigned as remedial plants for moon. Thus ancient sages and astrologers linked the watery nature of the moon with the growth habitat of plants.

**Table 2:** Habitat analyses of moon remedial plants

S.No	Habitat	Species number	Percentage
1	Cultivated fields	8	8.88
2	Cool places	16	17.77
3	Decaying liters	1	1.11
4	Moist places	42	46.67
5	Marshy places	2	2.22
6	Shade places	4	4.44
7	Sea rocks	1	1.11
8	Water bodies	6	6.66
9	Woodlands	2	2.22
10	Wet places	8	8.88

#### 3.2.2 Flower colour analyses

The flower of remedial plants shows 7 different colours (Table 3). White colour flower represents highest number of plants (40) followed by Yellow (23), purple (17), green (4), red (3), orange (2) and blue (1). The relationship between flower colour and remedial plants could be well understood with the help of moon phases and friendly planets colour (Table 4). The appearance of moon is due to two phenomenons namely scattering of light and the way human eye perceives. The bright moon is considered as a benefic of the highest order, and the dark Moon is considered a malefic. The colour of the moon light varies depending on the position in the sky and appear as white during day time, yellow at night and red or orange at the lowest horizon. Similarly the moon colour looks white, red or orange and blue to purple respectively on general, lunar eclipse and full moon day. Thus the remedial plants flower colour coincides either with the colour of moon phases or the colour of friendly planets. For example, If the affliction intensity is high the astrologer should choose the blue or purple colour flowering herbs as the colour is corresponded to full moon. The astrologer should select a herb whose flower colour is orange or red If a remedy is performed at the time of Table 3 Flower colour analyses of moon remedial plants lunar eclipse.

**Table 3:** Flower colour analyses of moon remedial plants

S.No	Flower colour	Species number	Percentage
1	Blue	1	1.11
2	Green	4	4.44
3	Orange	2	2.22
4	Purple	17	18.89
5	Red	3	3.33
6	White	40	44.44
7	Yellow	23	25.56

The plants attributed for moon have immense medicinal and commercial significance and used globally for the treatment of different kinds of disorders. This factor is also considered before prediction of a remedial plant. Thus certain aspects of predicting remedial plants to moon are unraveled but actual mechanism behind association and prediction needs further investigation.

**Table 4:** Colour of moon phases and friendly planets

S. No.	Moon phases	Colour	Friendly planets	Colour
1	Lunar eclipse	Red/ Orange	Sun	Orange, Pink
2	Full Moon	Blueish	Mars	Burning Red
3	Day	White	Jupiter	Yellow, Green
4	Night	Yellow	-	-
5	Near the horizon	Red	-	-

### 4. Conclusion

The vital ancient knowledge about moon remedial plants is associated with mysteries which are purposely hidden by ancient secret societies for a flawless way of life there by sustaining human existence. This fathomed trick in the name of astrology and religion had for eons been used as a tool to control the masses from understanding true Knowledge. The traditional modes of transmission are threatened with alienation between science and spirituality and the scientific and spiritual knowledge are diminishing or vanishing at present. Hence, the combined knowledge of astrology, botanical, physical and chemical about the moon remedial plants helps to unraveling the hidden cues in the near future. Further investigation is in progress.

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