

Thaxted Astronomical Society

News

Features

NF0039

That Was A Super Moon

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8299201/That-super-moon-Sky-watchers-transfixed-Flower-moon-rises-putting-stunning-display.html>

## That was super, moon: Sky watchers are transfixed as 'Flower moon' rises putting on a stunning display around the world

Daily Mail 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 >

- The 'Flower moon' name comes from the period of increased fertility and blooming of plants during early May
- It was the third and final supermoon of 2020 and was estimated to be less visually striking than the other two
- The moon was at its most impressive before it set at around 5.42 BST and after moonrise around 8.45pm BST

The year's final supermoon was at its most impressive last night, with the so-called 'Flower Moon' — named for the increased fertility of plants during early May — appearing six per cent larger than normal.

It was the third and final supermoon of 2020 — but was also estimated to be less visually striking than the other two, which occurred on March 9 and across April 7–8.

The moon was at its fullest at 11.45am BST yesterday morning, however it was not visible in the UK at that time.

However, the supermoon moon was still visible in all its glory last night after moonrise at approximately 8.45pm BST.

A 'Flower Moon' is also called a 'Mother's Moon', 'Milk Moon' or 'Corn Planting Moon'.

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Greg Brown, an astronomer at the Royal Observatory, said: 'Technically the exact moment of full moon [was] 11.45am, however the moon [was not] visible in the sky in the UK at that time.'

The moon rose over London at 8.44pm BST last night. It was larger than normal early yesterday morning, before it disappeared from the sky at 5.42am.

Mr Brown said: 'Times for moonrise and set vary slightly across the UK, but not by more than about 10 minutes or so.'

The full moon was also a supermoon, meaning it appeared about six per cent larger than a typical full moon and around 14 per cent bigger than a micromoon, which is when the moon is at its furthest point from Earth.

The moon's orbit around the Earth is not entirely circular, instead a slightly flattened circle or ellipse,' said Dr Brown.

'As such, it is sometimes closer to and sometimes further away from the Earth.

'While definitions vary, a supermoon typically occurs when a full moon coincides with the moon being within the closest 10 per cent of its orbit.'

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Dr Brown also said this event was the third and final supermoon of this year.

He added: 'Because of how the dynamics of orbits work, these usually occur in runs of two or three with longer gaps of several months between each set of supermoons.'

The full moon comes in the midst of another celestial display — the Eta Aquariids Meteor Shower, which reached its peak on Wednesday.

The Eta Aquariids take place every year from the middle of April until the end of May, when Earth passes through the stream of debris left behind by Halley's Comet.

This result in dozens of shooting stars every hour. Like yesterday's supermoon, they were visible with the naked eye and did not require a telescope or specialist equipment.

The next supermoon will be visible in April 2021, with the Flower Moon being the last one of 2020.

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The super moon rising into the sky near Glastonbury Tor next to St Michael's Tower



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Windsor Castle



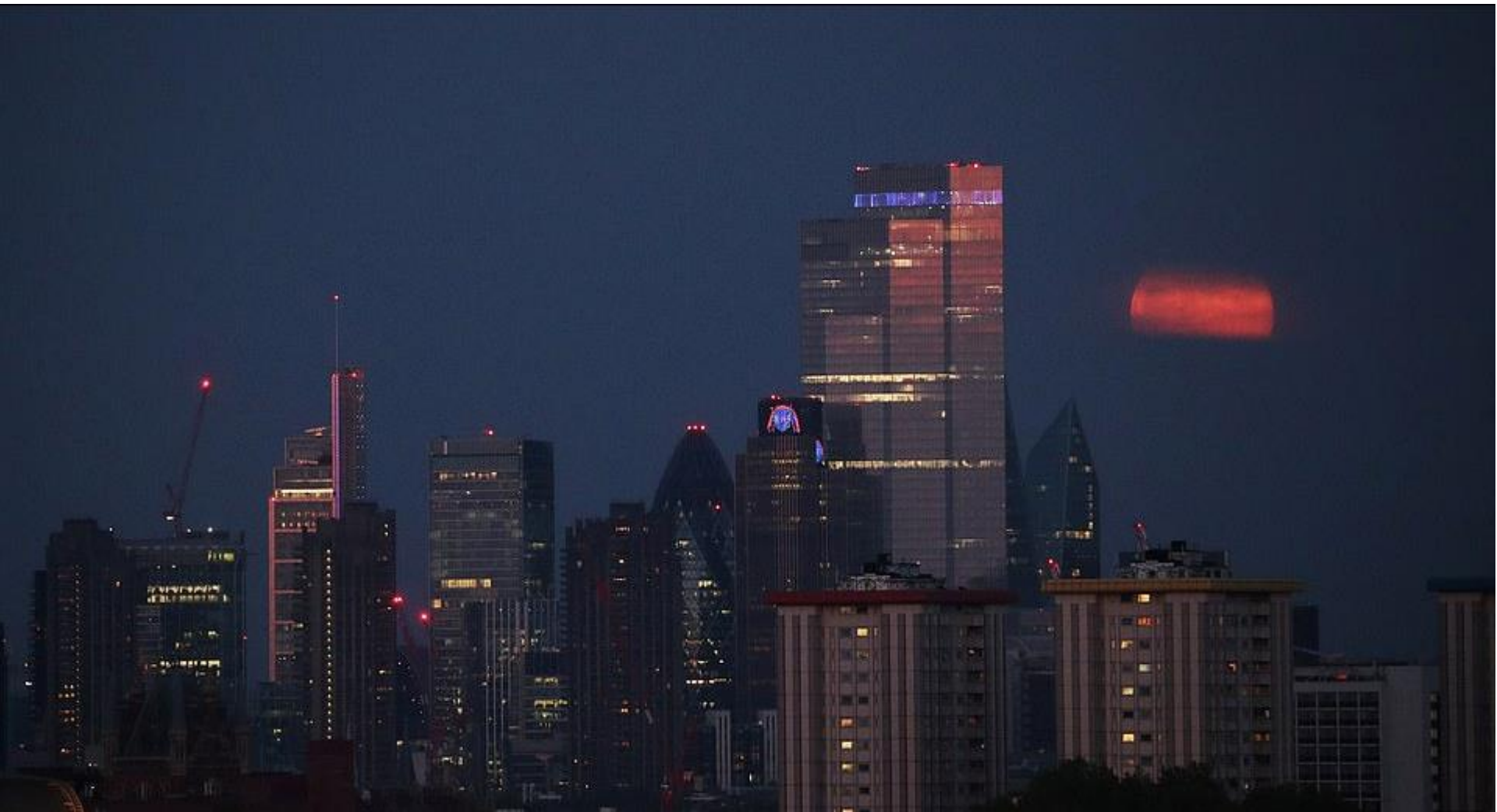


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London Skyline >



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