

Conjunction of the Moon with Spica

On the evening of **April 12th**, the bright star Spica will appear to be sitting on top of the Full “Grass” Moon, in the zodiac constellation Virgo, the Virgin. This is a close conjunction – with the two solar system bodies being separated briefly in the Asheville area by only $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$.

Because Spica is located along the “ecliptic” (the apparent path of the Sun, Moon, and planets across our skies), the Moon frequently passes close to the star and even eclipses (occults) it on occasion. On this date, most of South America and a portion of Central America will experience a lunar occultation of Spica.

Spica is a very hot, blue-white star that is located some 250 light years behind our Moon.

