

# METEOR SHOWERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parent Comet</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Peak</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Hourly Peak Rates</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Comments</u>
Quadrantids	(unknown)	Jan 1 - Jan 5	Jan 4	12 - 50	Short-lived peak; often missed
Lyrids	Thatcher	Apr 16 - Apr 25	Apr 22	15 - 25	Oldest documented shower
Eta Aquarids	Halley	Apr 21 - May 12	May 4	10 - 20	Better in southern hemisphere
Delta Aquarids	(unknown)	Jul 21 - Aug 29	Jul 29	15 - 25	Most populous, but widely spread
Perseids	Swift-Tuttle	Jul 15 - Aug 25	Aug 12	40 - 80	Best known shower and one of strongest
Draconids	Giacobini-Zinner	Oct 6 - Oct 10	Oct 9	variable	Seen only when comet nearby
Orionids	Halley	Oct 2 - Nov 7	Oct 21	15 - 30	Consistent; peak often lasts several days
Taurids	Encke	Sep 15 - Dec 1	Nov 3	5 - 10	Weak, but noted for bright "fireballs"
Leonids	Tempel-Tuttle	Nov 14-Nov 20	Nov 17	10 - 15	"Storms" are past; rates returning to normal
Geminids	3200 Phaethon (asteroid)	Dec 4 - Dec 16	Dec 14	50 - 100	Often best of year; worth the effort to see

<sup>1</sup>Peak date can vary by a day or so from year to year

<sup>2</sup>Under dark rural skies; rates from urban locations are often far less