2026 Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

Male Montastraea cavernosa polyps spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Dear spawning community: Whew! Disease and bleaching continued to stress our region throughout 2025. Spawning looks different than it did just a few years ago. Overall, corals on remote, protected, and healthier reefs are continuing to spawn "on time" on their predicted dates and times. Corals in urban, stressed, overfished, and polluted sites are spawning more sparsely, if at all, but they are still generally "on time" when they do spawn. If your joy, your job, or your photo album depend on coral spawning, we suggest seeking out the densest populations you can access, and diving a few extra nights to be sure you find what you're after. Also pay close attention to late August and late September, when the full moons occur just after midnight. Corals will "feel" the full moon a night early - we suggest starting dives one to two nights earlier than usual to catch them. Wishing a prolific spawn to all!

April & May Corals

NAFM	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Fri 10-Apr	Sat 11-Apr	Sun 12-Apr	Mon 13-Apr	Tue 14-Apr
SUNSET	6:47 PM	6:47 PM	6:47 PM	6:47 PM	6:47 PM

NAFM	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Sun 10-May	Mon 11-May	Tue 12-May	Wed 13-May	Thu 14-May
SUNSET	6:51 PM	6:51 PM	6:51 PM	6:52 PM	6:52 PM

Scientific name **(and spawning window)**	**Common Name**													
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral				5:37–6:57 PM						5:40–7:00 PM			

June & July Corals

NAFM	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Tue 9-Jun	Wed 10-Jun	Thu 11-Jun	Fri 12-Jun	Sat 13-Jun
SUNSET	6:59 PM	6:59 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM

NAFM	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Wed 8-Jul	Thu 9-Jul	Fri 10-Jul	Sat 11-Jul	Sun 12-Jul
SUNSET	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM	7:04 PM

Scientific name **(and spawning window)**	**Common Name**													
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral				5:49-7:10 PM						5:40–7:00 PM			

July–Aug Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Wed 29-Jul	Thu 30-Jul	Fri 31-Jul	Sat 1-Aug	Sun 2-Aug	Mon 3-Aug	Tue 4-Aug	Wed 5-Aug	Thu 6-Aug	Fri 7-Aug	Sat 8-Aug	Sun 9-Aug	Mon 10-Aug	Tue 11-Aug
SUNSET	7:02 PM	7:02 PM	7:01 PM	7:01 PM	7:01 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	6:59 PM	6:59 PM	6:58 PM	6:58 PM	6:58 PM	6:57 PM

Scientific name **(and spawning window)**	**Common Name**														
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral											5:50–7:10 PM			
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					7:16–10:46 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral					7:25–8:55 PM									
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						7:30–8:30 PM								
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral		8:32–9:42 PM												
Acropora palmata (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral	9:22–10:12 PM (Spawning is possible as early as July 27: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)													
Acropora cervicornis (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral	9:32–10:12 PM (Spawning is possible as early as July 27)													
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral					10:06–11:11 PM									
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral					10:06–11:16 PM									
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						10:20–11:30 PM								

Aug–Sept Corals

NAFM*	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Fri 28-Aug	Sat 29-Aug	Sun 30-Aug	Mon 31-Aug	Tue 1-Sep	Wed 2-Sep	Thu 3-Sep	Fri 4-Sep	Sat 5-Sep	Sun 6-Sep	Mon 7-Sep	Tue 8-Sep	Wed 9-Sep	Thu 10-Sep
SUNSET	6:48 PM	6:47 PM	6:47 PM	6:46 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	6:44 PM	6:43 PM	6:43 PM	6:42 PM	6:42 PM	6:41 PM	6:40 PM	6:39 PM

***The full moon is VERY early on Aug 28: Start monitoring on the orange dates!**

Scientific name **(and spawning window)**	**Common Name**														
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral											5:46–7:06 PM			
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					7:01–10:31 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral						7:09–8:39 PM								
Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral							8:00–11:15 PM							
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						7:14–8:14 PM (Peak in first 30 min)								
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:28–9:38 PM											
Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral	8:13–9:28 PM (Known to spawn from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: please help us explore this window!)													
Stephanocoenia intersepta (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral					9:25–11:00 PM									
Acropora palmata (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral	9:08–9:58 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Aug 26: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)													
Acropora cervicornis (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral		9:18–9:58 PM (As early as Aug 26)												
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral						9:50–10:55 PM								
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral						9:50–11:00 PM								
Siderastrea siderea (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral					10:00–11:25 PM									
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						10:04–11:14 PM								

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Orbicella polyps setting/staging gamete bundles before spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Sept-Oct Corals

NAFM*	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	**Sat 26-Sep**	**Sun 27-Sep**	**Mon 28-Sep**	**Tue 29-Sep**	**Wed 30-Sep**	**Thu 1-Oct**	**Fri 2-Oct**	**Sat 3-Oct**	**Sun 4-Oct**	**Mon 5-Oct**	**Tue 6-Oct**	**Wed 7-Oct**	**Thu 8-Oct**	**Fri 9-Oct**
SUNSET	6:29 PM	6:28 PM	6:27 PM	6:27 PM	6:26 PM	6:25 PM	6:25 PM	6:24 PM	6:23 PM	6:23 PM	6:22 PM	6:21 PM	6:21 PM	6:20 PM
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral										5:28–6:48 PM			
Meandrina meandrites (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral					6:35–7:35 PM (Expected nightly to at least Oct 15: new observations welcome any								
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral				6:42–10:12 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral						6:50–8:20 PM							
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral					6:55–7:55 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)								
Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral						7:40–10:55 PM							
Montastraea/Orbicella franksi (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral						7:56–8:56 PM							
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			7:59–9:09 PM										
Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral				7:54–9:09 PM (Expected nightly from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations are encouraged!)									
Acropora palmata (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral	8:49–9:39 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Sept 24: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)												
Acropora cervicornis (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral	8:59–9:39 PM (As early as												
Stephanocoenia intersepta (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral					9:07–10:42 PM								
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral						9:31–10:36 PM							
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral						9:31–10:41 PM							
Siderastrea siderea (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral					9:41–11:06 PM								
Pseudodiploria clivosa (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral							9:55–10:40 PM						
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						9:45–10:55 PM							
Madracis senaria (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral						all night							
Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites (All night)	Lettuce Coral						all night							

*The full moon is VERY early on Sept 26: Start monitoring on the orange dates!

Oct-Nov Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	**Mon 26-Oct**	**Tue 27-Oct**	**Wed 28-Oct**	**Thu 29-Oct**	**Fri 30-Oct**	**Sat 31-Oct**	**Sun 1-Nov**	**Mon 2-Nov**	**Tue 3-Nov**	**Wed 4-Nov**	**Thu 5-Nov**	**Fri 6-Nov**	**Sat 7-Nov**	**Sun 8-Nov**
SUNSET	6:12 PM	6:11 PM	6:11 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM
Diploria labyrinthiformis (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral										5:00–6:20 PM			
Meandrina meandrites (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral					6:20–7:20 PM (Expected nightly until at least Oct 26: new observations are								
Montastraea cavernosa (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					6:25–9:55 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
Colpophyllia natans (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral						6:34–8:04 PM							
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral					6:39–7:39 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)								
Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral						7:25–10:40 PM							
Montastraea/Orbicella franksi (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral						7:40–8:40 PM							
Dendrogyra cylindrus (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral		7:42–8:52 PM											
Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral			7:37–8:52 PM (Expected nightly from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations are encouraged!)										
Stephanocoenia intersepta (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral					8:50–10:25 PM								
Montastraea/Orbicella annularis (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral						9:15–10:20 PM							
Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral						9:15–10:25 PM							
Siderastrea siderea (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral					9:25–10:50 PM								
Pseudodiploria clivosa (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral							9:39–10:24 PM						
Pseudodiploria strigosa (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral						9:29–10:39 PM							
Madracis senaria (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral						all night							
Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites (All night)	Lettuce Coral						all night							

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Eusmilia fastigata with eggs visible in tentacles before spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Late Nov Corals

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**	**Mon**	**Tue**	**Wed**	**Thu**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**	**Mon**
	24-Nov	**25-Nov**	**26-Nov**	**27-Nov**	**28-Nov**	**29-Nov**	**30-Nov**	**1-Dec**	**2-Dec**	**3-Dec**	**4-Dec**	**5-Dec**	**6-Dec**	**7-Dec**
SUNSET	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM
Meandrina meandrites (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral				6:18–7:18 PM (Expected nightly through early Dec)									
Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral					7:23–10:38 PM								
Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral	7:32–8:47 PM (Known to spawn from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: please help us explore their late season spawning!)												

Fall Sponges, Brittle Stars, Gorgonians, and More

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	28-Aug	**29-Aug**	**30-Aug**	**31-Aug**	**1-Sep**	**2-Sep**	**3-Sep**	**4-Sep**	**5-Sep**	**6-Sep**	**7-Sep**	**8-Sep**	**9-Sep**	**10-Sep**
DATE	**26-Sep**	**27-Sep**	**28-Sep**	**29-Sep**	**30-Sep**	**1-Oct**	**2-Oct**	**3-Oct**	**4-Oct**	**5-Oct**	**6-Oct**	**7-Oct**	**8-Oct**	**9-Oct**
	26-Oct	**27-Oct**	**28-Oct**	**29-Oct**	**30-Oct**	**31-Oct**	**1-Nov**	**2-Nov**	**3-Nov**	**4-Nov**	**5-Nov**	**6-Nov**	**7-Nov**	**8-Nov**
Holothuria mexicana	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber	12:00–6:00 PM												
Hermodice carunculata	Fire Worm	12:00–7:00 PM												
Diadema antillarum	Long-Spined Sea Urchin	12:00–9:00 PM												
Neofibularia nolitangere	Touch-Me-Not Sponge				2:00–7:00 PM									
Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia	Sea Rods	starting at 7:00 PM												
Plexaura homomalla	Black Sea Rod				7:00–11:00 PM									
Ophiuroidea	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star	7:30–11:00 PM												
Pseudopterogorgia spp.	Sea Plume				8:00–11:00 PM									
Spirobranchus giganteus	Christmas Tree Worm	9:00–11:30 PM												

Abbreviations & Colors

NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon
MBS: Minutes Before Sunset
MAS: Minutes After Sunset

Pale yellow: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse: Please help by diving on these dates

CARMABI orange: Spawning is possible: Spawning has been observed on these dates

Red: Spawning is likely: Spawning is often observed on these dates

Dark purple: Spawning is very likely: Spawning is reliably observed on these dates

Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)
Colors are distinct for grayscale/CVD

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Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions span the known range of spawning times without an added buffer; be sure to enter the water before the predicted spawning time.
- Dive at sites with high coral cover.
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights.
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time.
- Use a moderately bright dive light.
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
  - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots.
  - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand.
  - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit www.timeanddate.com

More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2026.
- **Coral breeding reference sheets:** This new community resource is led by Val Chamberland: www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting.
- **Spawning community Q&As:** Join us for our Facebook Q&A series; we're answering spawning and larval propagation questions here: www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is collecting and distributing regional spawning data. If you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start/stop times, area monitored (m2), # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all valuable! Send reports to carmabilog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, kristen@marhaverlab.com, or post your observations at www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Epic thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Spawning has been a challenge lately, but larval propagation and genetic conservation teams continue to have success. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2026." CARMABI, Curacao.