

## The Thirteen Month Calendar

By Marilyn Reeves

The first Roman calendar year contained 304 days divided into 10 months, beginning with the month of [March](#). If you remember your Latin, you know that September was originally named for the seventh month, not the ninth; October the eighth; November the ninth; and December the tenth month (not the twelfth). But ignoring all that, the second early Roman king [Numa Pompilius](#) added the months January and February up front, making those original numerical designations meaningless. Then Julius Caesar added a Leap Year day every four years to make the number of days come a bit closer mathematically to the rotation of the earth around the sun, and the resulting [Julian calendar](#) was used by Europeans for several centuries. But in the year 1582, Pope Gregory added a few final touches, and the Gregorian calendar was born, which is now in worldwide use today.

I'm wondering why twelve months, not thirteen? Most people know the word 'month' was named for the moon, and there are thirteen moon cycles per each 365-day calendar year. (When two moons appear within the same month, the second moon is referred to as the 'Blue Moon.')

I assume it's because people are superstitious about the number 13, so the year was divided into twelve months instead of thirteen.

But I think it would be better to cast superstition aside, and create a new thirteen-month calendar. The simplest solution would be to have twelve months of 28 days each, and add a thirteenth month with 29. On the other hand, I propose a totally different approach, giving the more pleasant months additional days and weeks, and drastically shortening those months I would just as soon do away with. Please review the following to see if you don't agree:

January – 21 days (3 weeks): Way too cold!

February – 21 days (3 weeks): Ditto.

March – 21 days (3 weeks): 50/50 - Lions and lambs.

April – 35 days (5 weeks): Early spring flowers start to bloom.

May – 35 days (5 weeks): Apple blossom time!

Primavera\* – 36 days (5 weeks + 1 day): Proposed new month – a Celebration of Spring!

June – 35 days (5 weeks): Spring transitions into summer.

July – 21 days (3 weeks): Getting hot.

August – 21 days (3 weeks): Way too hot!

September – 42 days (6 weeks): The very best weather of the year!

October – 35 days (5 weeks): Gotta keep Halloween!

November – 14 days (2 weeks): Dull & drab – except Thanksgiving (last Thursday of the month).

December – 28 days (4 weeks): Got to keep the Holidays! (New Year's Eve changes to Dec. 28)

TOTAL: 365 days (52 weeks + 1 day)

*\* Primavera means springtime in Spanish – such a pretty word!*

So what do you think? Will you vote for my new thirteen-month calendar? And yes, we'd still have to add a day to a selected month every four years for Leap Year. How about 'Primavera'?