



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/L. Cieza (UT Austin).

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LABOR DAY					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Serpens Star-forming Region

Infant stars are glowing gloriously in this infrared image of the Serpens star-forming region. The image is a composite created from data taken by Spitzer's infrared array camera and multi-band imaging photometer. The Serpens star-forming region is about 848 light-years away in the Serpens constellation. Because newly forming stars are usually deeply embedded in regions of thick dust, they cannot be seen at visible wavelengths (right). When viewed with Spitzer's infrared eyes, however, the Serpens region becomes transparent, dramatically exposing newly born and forming stars.

The reddish-pink dots are baby stars deeply embedded in the cosmic cloud of gas and dust that collapsed to create it. A dusty disk of cosmic debris, or "protoplanetary disk," that may eventually form planets, surrounds the infant stars. Wisps of green throughout the image indicate the presence of carbon-rich organic molecules called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. On Earth, these molecules can be found on charred barbecue grills and in automobile exhaust. Blue specks sprinkled throughout the image are background stars in our Milky Way Galaxy.



Credit: California Institute of Technology Digitized Sky Survey.

