

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

GIVE A CHEER FOR CHERRIES!

MORE WAYS TO BECOME A GENIUS

VALENTINE'S DAY MEANS CHOCOLATE!

**HOT PEPPERS FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS**



FEBRUARY 2021

PHOTO: CHENGYUZHENG/GETTY IMAGES

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for Health and  
Happiness

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# FEBRUARY

*Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More*



## EYE ON THE SKY

### FEBRUARY FULL MOON NAMES

Snow Moon, Make Branches Fall Into Pieces Moon, Raccoon Moon

### MOON PHASES

**Last Quarter:** Feb. 4, 12:37 P.M. EST

**New Moon:** Feb. 11, 2:06 P.M. EST

**First Quarter:** Feb. 19, 1:47 P.M. EST

**Full Moon:** Feb. 27, 3:17 A.M. EST



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT FEBRUARY'S FULL MOON

*The speckled sky is dim with snow,  
The light flakes falter and fall slow;  
Athwart the hilltop, rapt and pale,  
Silently drops a silvery veil;  
And all the valley is shut in  
By flickering curtains gray and thin.*

—John Townsend Trowbridge,  
American writer (1827–1916)

## A MONTH TO REMEMBER

“February” comes from the Latin *februa*, “to cleanse.” The Roman Februalia was a festival of purification and atonement that took place during this time of year.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day
- Feb. 12:** Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday
- Feb. 12:** Chinese New Year (Year of the Ox)
- Feb. 14:** Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 15:** Presidents’ Day
- Feb. 16:** Mardi Gras
- Feb. 16:** Shrove Tuesday
- Feb. 17:** Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 22:** George Washington’s Birthday



## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These February dates, deemed to be propitious in astrology, are based on the astrological passage of the Moon. However, consider all indicators before making any major decisions. —*Celeste Longacre*

### AROUND THE HOUSE

---

Bake: 22, 23

Brew: 3–5

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 3–5

Demolish: 3–5

Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 6, 7

End projects: 10

Lay shingles: 24–26

Make jams or jellies: 12, 13

Paint: 1, 2

Start projects: 12

Wash floors: 12, 13

Wash windows: 14–16



## PERSONAL

---

- Advertise to sell: 17, 18
- Ask for a loan: 3–5
- Begin diet to lose weight: 5, 28
- Begin diet to gain weight: 13, 18
- Buy a home: 17, 18
- Color hair: 17, 18
- Cut hair to discourage growth: 1, 2
- Cut hair to encourage growth: 17, 18
- Entertain: 24–26
- Get married: 1, 2
- Have dental care: 27, 28
- Move (house/household): 19–21
- Perm hair: 10, 11
- Quit smoking: 5, 28
- Straighten hair: 6, 7
- Travel for pleasure: 24–26
- Wean children: 5, 28

## OUTDOORS

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- Begin logging: 8, 9
- Go camping: 6, 7
- Go fishing: 11–27
- Set posts or pour concrete: 8, 9

## IN THE GARDEN

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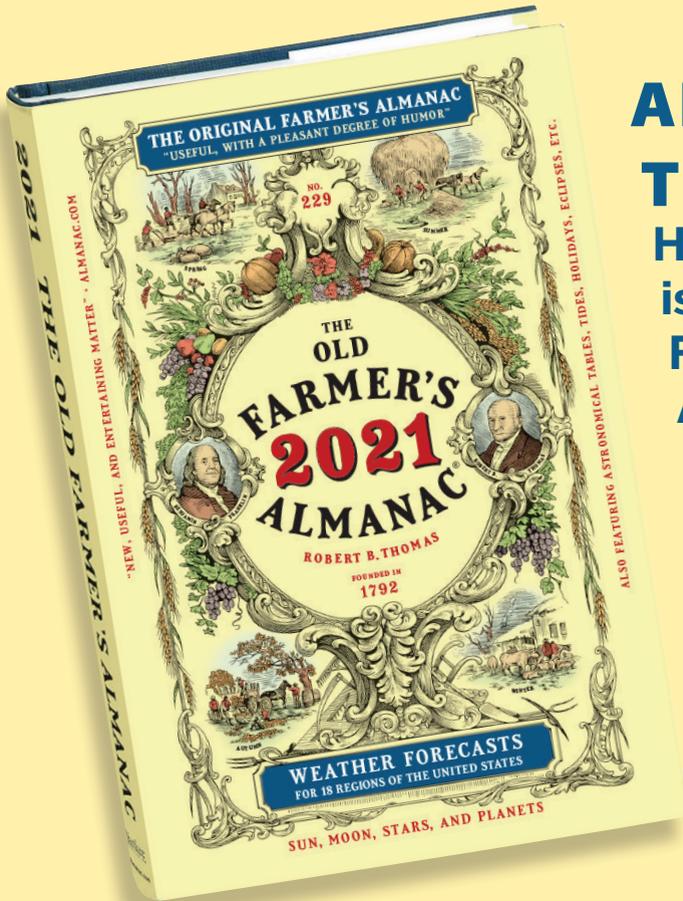
- Destroy pests and weeds: 14–16
- Graft or pollinate: 22, 23
- Harvest aboveground crops: 17, 18
- Harvest belowground crops: 8, 9, 28
- Mow to slow growth: 3–5
- Mow to promote growth: 14–16
- Pick fruit: 27, 28
- Plant aboveground crops: 12, 13, 22, 23
- Plant belowground crops: 3–5
- Prune to discourage growth: 6, 7
- Prune to encourage growth: 14–16

## ON THE FARM

---

- Breed animals: 3–5
- Castrate animals: 10, 11
- Cut hay: 14–16
- Purchase animals: 22, 23
- Set eggs: 1, 2, 20, 28
- Slaughter livestock: 3–5
- Wean animals: 5, 28

# 2021 Old Farmer's Almanac Hardcover Collector's Edition



## ALMANAC

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## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the February dates shown in the Moon's Astrological Place calendar below to find the best days for the following garden tasks:

**PLANT, TRANSPLANT, AND GRAFT:** Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces, or Taurus

**HARVEST:** Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, Gemini, or Aquarius

**BUILD/FIX FENCES OR GARDEN BEDS:** Capricorn

**CONTROL INSECT PESTS, PLOW, AND WEED:** Aries, Gemini, Leo, Sagittarius, or Aquarius

**PRUNE:** Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius. During a waxing Moon, pruning encourages growth; during a waning Moon, it discourages growth.

### THE MOON'S ASTROLOGICAL PLACE IN FEBRUARY

|                      |                    |                  |                 |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b> Libra       | <b>9</b> Capricorn | <b>17</b> Taurus | <b>25</b> Leo   |
| <b>2</b> Libra       | <b>10</b> Aquarius | <b>18</b> Taurus | <b>26</b> Leo   |
| <b>3</b> Scorpio     | <b>11</b> Aquarius | <b>19</b> Gemini | <b>27</b> Virgo |
| <b>4</b> Scorpio     | <b>12</b> Pisces   | <b>20</b> Gemini | <b>28</b> Virgo |
| <b>5</b> Scorpio     | <b>13</b> Pisces   | <b>21</b> Gemini |                 |
| <b>6</b> Sagittarius | <b>14</b> Aries    | <b>22</b> Cancer |                 |
| <b>7</b> Sagittarius | <b>15</b> Aries    | <b>23</b> Cancer |                 |
| <b>8</b> Capricorn   | <b>16</b> Aries    | <b>24</b> Leo    |                 |



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



TAP FOR  
FEBRUARY  
MOON PHASES

## MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

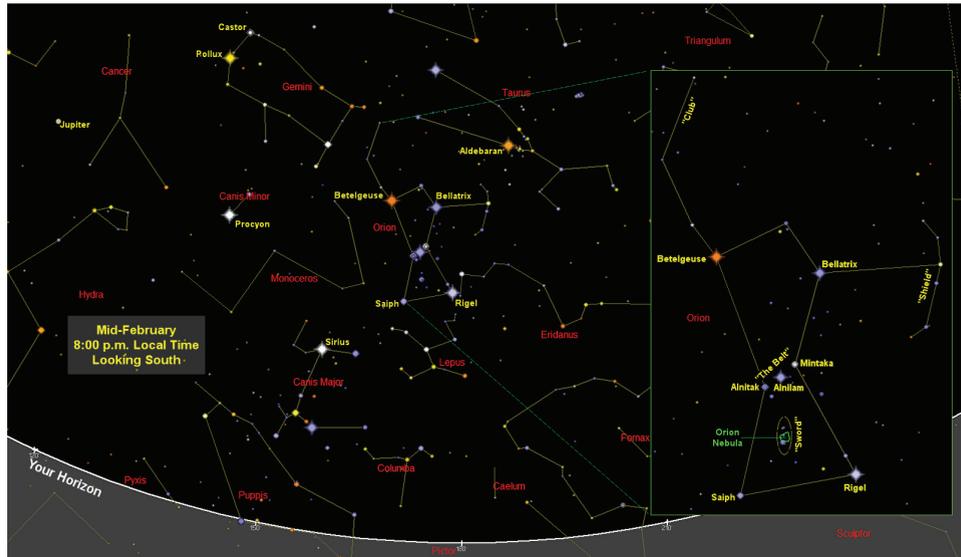
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's 2021 retrograde periods:  
**January 30–February 21, May 29–June 22, and September 27–October 23.**

–Celeste Longacre



## ALL HAIL, THE MIGHTY HUNTER!

**T**here is no brighter constellation in the night sky than Orion, the Hunter. And there is no better time to view Orion than an early evening in February, so bundle up!

When you look to the south in February, your view is dominated by Orion, standing tall and proud. Let's examine the Hunter in detail. This month's Sky Map includes a close-up view of Orion on the right-hand side of the map.

The main figure of Orion consists of seven bright stars. The brightest of these are Betelgeuse on his right shoulder and Rigel on his left knee. Both are among the sky's 10 brightest stars, and they have distinctly different colors. At a glance, it is easy to see that Betelgeuse is a yellowish orange star while Rigel is a dazzling blue-white. In general, the colors of stars are very subtle, but the colors of these two bright stars are easy to see.

Betelgeuse and Rigel are both classified as "supergiant"



TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
FEBRUARY  
SKY MAP



TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES



stars, having about 8 and 21 times the mass, respectively, of our Sun. Where Betelgeuse really excels, however, is in its sheer size—as much as 1,000 times larger than our Sun!

On Orion's left shoulder lies the very blue star Bellatrix, meaning “female warrior.” It's no coincidence that the Bellatrix LeStrange character in the Harry Potter books is extremely warlike (and not in a good way!). Bellatrix (the star) is even bluer than Rigel, but because Bellatrix is dimmer, its color is less apparent except on especially clear, dark nights.

Completing the main outline of Orion is Saiph, marking the Hunter's right knee. This is another supergiant star, 22 times the mass of our Sun.

The three stars of the Belt are a prominent feature of Orion. These stars span the midsection of the Hunter, forming a straight bright line. Although we call it the Belt, this asterism (unofficial star pattern) has many names in various cultures and religions, including the “yardstick,” the “wand,” and the “Three Kings” (after the Christmas story).

If you are viewing Orion from a dark location, you'll be able to see his arm rising upward from Betelgeuse. The arm is often depicted as holding a weapon of some sort, often a club. Orion's other arm extends to the right of Bellatrix and holds a shield to fend off the Hunter's enemies.

Finally, you may notice a group of three stars hanging downward below the Belt. These are said to represent Orion's sword. The middle “star” in the sword isn't a star at all, but is instead a giant cloud of glowing gas and dust known as the Orion Nebula or the Great Nebula in Orion.

This nebula is a stellar nursery, where new stars are being born at this very minute. The cloud glows because many young stars are still embedded within it. With binoculars, the Great Nebula looks like a small, glowing cloud. It is the closest star-forming region to Earth, a mere 1,300 light-years away!

—Jeff DeTray

LIVING NATURALLY



# Hot Peppers for Health and Happiness

*Not only are hot peppers delicious in cooking, but also they have healing powers—triggering a natural high and providing pain relief.*

PHOTO: LILIIA KYRYLENKO/GETTY IMAGES

**L**ast summer, we harvested a bumper crop of Anaheim-type chile peppers, many of which I roasted, peeled, and froze.

Mmm-mmm! Nothing provides winter comfort and joy better than a bowl of spicy chili or an aromatic pepper-laced vegetable soup simmered on the woodstove.

Humans have been growing and eating hot peppers for at least 7,000 years, and, for at least as long, indigenous healers have been prescribing them in some form for pretty much everything that ails us, inside and out.

Modern research has borne out some of these health-promoting uses (and found conflicting evidence for others). Researchers continue to explore the use of hot peppers or their constituents for preventing or treating various cancers, weight loss, diabetes prevention and management,

cluster headaches, skin disorders, respiratory diseases (including colds, coughs, and flu), digestive ailments, and many other health problems.

### **THE HEAT FACTOR**

Although medical researchers say that the healing virtues of peppers result from numerous constituent compounds and their interaction, the phytochemicals called capsaicinoids (the most common of which is capsaicin) produce the sensation of heat that you feel when you eat a hot pepper or unfortunately happen to rub your eyes after handling one.

Plant scientists theorize that pepper plants manufacture capsaicinoids to deter mammal pests (whose molars can grind and destroy the seeds). This allows whole seeds to be dispersed by birds, whose tissues

aren't irritated by capsaicin.

Over the centuries, plant breeders have developed multitudes of hot pepper varieties, with widely varying degrees of "heat." However, a pepper's hotness depends not only on its genetic makeup, but also on the soil that produced it, the weather during its growing season, how the crop was grown, when it was harvested, how it was stored, and how it is used.

The most common measure of the heat of hot peppers is the Scoville Scale (after Wilbur Scoville, the American pharmacist who invented it).

The mild, Anaheim-type peppers that I grow register between 1,000 and 2,500 Scoville units; habaneros measure between 100,000 and 350,000; and the pepper spray used by law enforcement comes in at somewhere around 2 million units.



## **NATURAL HIGH, NATURAL COOLING**

Many people love intensely hot food for the euphoria that it produces after the burn abates. Scientists theorize that the burning pain produced by the capsaicinoids triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural painkillers.

Counterintuitively, hot peppers also cause a natural cooling effect in hot weather by increasing sweating, one reason that anthropologists suggest that the closer native cuisines are to the Equator, the more

they incorporate hot ingredients.

## **PEPPERS FOR PAIN RELIEF**

Although the hotness of a hot pepper doesn't actually damage skin or mucous membranes, one way that it may promote healing is by tricking the body into believing that it's been injured, thus triggering various natural immune and painkilling responses.

You've no doubt seen many over-the-counter products that claim to relieve the pain of arthritis, muscle pulls and aches, sprains,

and shingles. The most effective of these products contain capsaicin.

The use of hot peppers for pain relief also seems counterintuitive, but science confirms that it works.

Using these capsaicin-containing products generally offers relief only after several applications. The first few applications are likely to sting, but gradually the pain gives way to relief. Scientists theorize that the capsaicin works by gradually depleting something called substance P (or "SP"), a neurotransmitter that sends pain signals to

## LIVING NATURALLY

the brain.

The temporary inflammation and redness will subside as the capsaicin depletes substance P, and your body should experience less pain in the region.

*Always confer with your healthcare professional before using capsaicin or hot peppers for any therapeutic purpose.*

### MAKE YOUR OWN CAPSAICIN OIL OR CREAM

It's inexpensive and easy to make your own pain-relieving cream.

Combine 2 tablespoons of powdered hot chile peppers (I use cayenne) with 2 cups of olive or canola oil. Heat on low temperature in a dedicated stainless saucepan, stirring occasionally. Let this sit for a few days and then rewarm the mixture and strain it through cheesecloth into a big glass jar (with a lid). If you want to create a thicker product similar to a cream, add an ounce

#### HOW TO HANDLE HOT PEPPERS

Always use caution when handling chile peppers in any form for any reason. Capsaicin, the oil-like compound that contains their fiery heat, is concentrated in the membrane, or rib, of a chile.

- If you can, wear gloves while handling the peppers themselves.
- Afterward, wash your gloved (or bare) hands thoroughly with soap and cool water.
- Try not to touch your eyes or face for several hours after working with chile peppers or their associated products.

or two of grated beeswax or beeswax beads to the warm mixture and stir to dissolve. Cover and store in a cool place.

To use, rub the oil or cream into the sore or chronically inflamed area several times a day. Wear kitchen gloves or (for smaller areas) use a cotton swab.

#### Cautions on the use of your homemade capsaicin product!

- Do not apply this to broken skin or burned areas.
- Do not apply immediately after a hot bath or shower.

- Do not use with a heating pad.
- Do not use on young children.

#### CHECK YOUR MEDS!

Capsaicin may interact with a number of prescription and over-the-counter products. Always check with your healthcare provider before using capsaicin externally or internally.

—Margaret Boyles



TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES'S POSTS IN HER "LIVING NATURALLY" BLOG



# Valentine's Day Means Chocolate!

*Chocolate has become the food of choice for many people on Valentine's Day, February 14. At The Old Farmer's Almanac, we eat it all year long! Surprise your valentine with one of our delightful chocolate recipes and be prepared to hear those three little words, "I love . . . chocolate!"*

# Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cake

## OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE

- |                                        |                                              |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1-3/4 cups boiling water               | 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder        |
| 1 cup old-fashioned oats (not instant) | 1 teaspoon baking soda                       |
| 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter               | 1/2 teaspoon salt                            |
| 1 cup brown sugar                      | 1 package (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips |
| 1 cup sugar                            | 3/4 cup chopped nuts (optional)              |
| 2 eggs                                 |                                              |
| 1-3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour    |                                              |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 13x9-inch baking dish.

In a bowl, pour boiling water over oats and let stand for 10 minutes. Add butter and stir until melted. Add sugars and stir until dissolved. Add eggs and mix well.

In a separate bowl, sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. Add to oat mixture and mix well. Pour into prepared baking pan. Sprinkle with chocolate chips and nuts, if using. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes. Cool completely before serving.

**Makes 16 servings.**

# Chocolate Cheesecake



## CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

### CRUST:

24 chocolate wafer cookies or  
graham crackers, crushed

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) melted  
butter

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1-1/2 pounds (three 8-oz.  
pkgs.) cream cheese,  
softened

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

2 teaspoons unsweetened  
cocoa powder

### FILLING:

12 oz. semisweet chocolate

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1-1/2 cups sour cream

*For crust:* In a bowl, combine cookie crumbs, butter, and cinnamon, then press into an 8-inch springform pan. Refrigerate until ready to use.

*For filling:* Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a double boiler, melt chocolate and then let cool.

Using a hand or stand mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in sugar, eggs (one at a time), melted chocolate, cocoa powder, and vanilla. Using a rubber spatula, fold in sour cream until thoroughly mixed. Pour into pan and bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool at room temperature for 1 hour and then refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours before serving.

**Makes 12 to 16 servings.**

FOOD

A close-up photograph of a white ceramic mug filled with hot cocoa and topped with several white marshmallows. The mug is decorated with blue, raised snowflake patterns. To the right of the mug, a gingerbread house is partially visible, decorated with white icing and small white beads. A red and white striped candy cane is also visible in the background. The entire scene is set against a white background with falling snowflakes, creating a winter atmosphere.

# Hot Cocoa With Marshmallows

## HOT COCOA WITH MARSHMALLOWS

4 cups milk

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

4 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon (optional)

mini marshmallows, for topping

In a saucepan over medium heat, warm milk to a gentle simmer. Whisk in sugar, cocoa powder, chopped chocolate,\* and cinnamon.

Simmer the mixture, whisking continuously, until chocolate and sugar are melted and mixture begins to thicken. Divide among four mugs. Top with mini marshmallows right before serving.

**Makes 4 servings.**

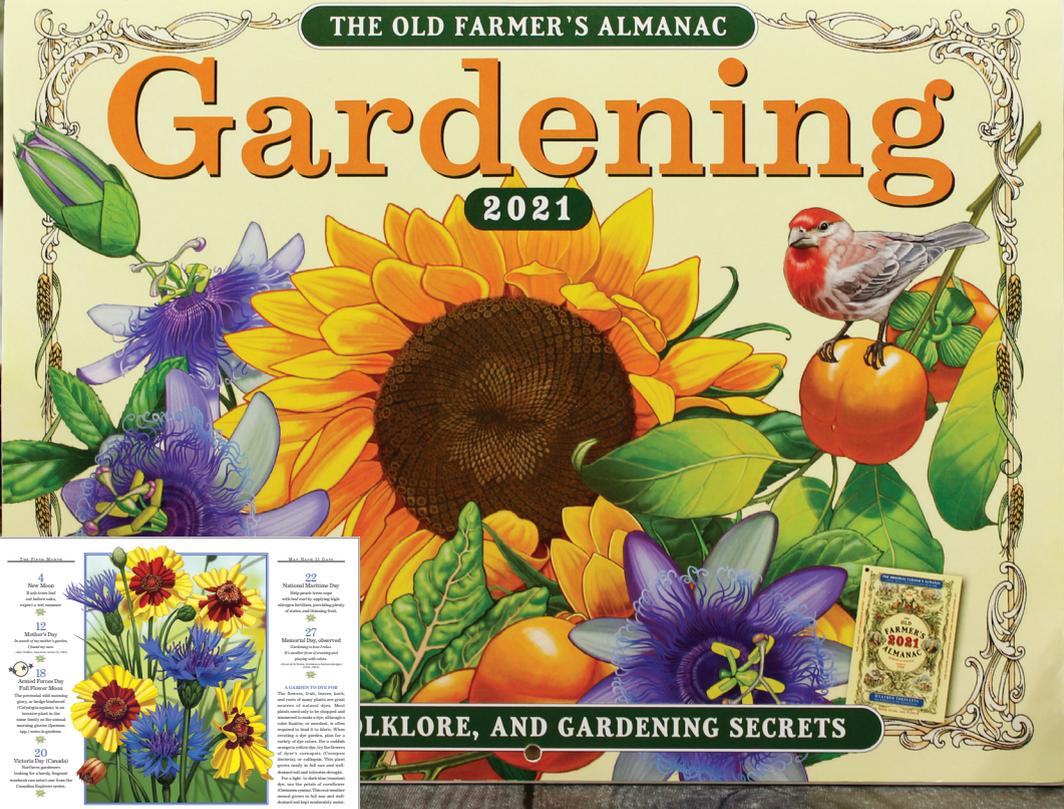
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\*If you have extra time, melt the chocolate separately in a double boiler. Heat the milk with other ingredients separately. Once the chocolate is melted, whisk into the milk mixture.

# Old Farmer's Almanac 2021 Garden Calendar

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

# Gardening 2021



PLANTING, CARE, AND GARDENING SECRETS

**New Moon** 4  
New Moon  
At this time, the moon is at its lowest point, and the tides are at their lowest.

**Mother's Day** 12  
Mother's Day  
A day to honor the mothers of the world.

**Second Harvest Day** 15  
Second Harvest Day  
A day to honor the second harvest of the year.

**Victoria Day (Canada)** 24  
Victoria Day (Canada)  
A day to honor Queen Victoria.

**National Mother's Day** 29  
National Mother's Day  
A day to honor the mothers of the world.

**Manure Harvested** 27  
Manure Harvested  
A day to honor the manure harvested from the fields.

**PLANTING TO DO TODAY**  
The flowers, the trees, the herbs, and the vegetables that are in bloom now are the best to plant today. They will be in the best condition to be planted and will give you the best results.

MAY 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                                                             | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |  |           |          |        | 1        |
| 2      | 3      | 4                                                                                   | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
| 9      | 10     | 11                                                                                  | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16     | 17     | 18                                                                                  | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23     | 24     | 25                                                                                  | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
| 30     | 31     |                                                                                     |           |          |        |          |

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**T**his year marks the centennial of Albert Einstein's recognition with the Nobel Prize for Physics. So, what better time to resolve to become a genius—or at least a little smarter than you are now.

You may already possess some of the same traits that distinguished some of history's most famous thinkers. All you need to know is how to reach your potential. Here are some tips proven to work!

### TRUST YOUR HUNCHES

*I'm not a genius. I'm just a tremendous bundle of experience.*

—R. Buckminster Fuller, American inventor (1895–1983)

Geniuses commonly know without being able to say how they know. Claude Bernard (1813–78), the founder of modern physiology, wrote that everything purposeful in scientific thinking begins with feeling.

### DON'T GIVE UP!

*Genius is nothing but a great aptitude for patience.*

—Georges-Louis de Buffon, French naturalist (1707–88)

Einstein was once asked what the difference was between him and the average person. He said that if you asked the average person to find a needle in the haystack, the person would stop when he found a needle. Einstein said that he, on the other hand, would comb through the entire haystack looking for all the possible needles. “It’s not that I’m smart, it’s just that I stay with the problems longer,” he said.

### JUST DO IT—AGAIN AND AGAIN

*Genius is an infinite love of taking pains.*

—Sir James Matthew Barrie, Scottish writer (1860–1937)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91) wrote more than 600 pieces of music, and Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) produced a cantata every week.

Thomas Edison (1847–1931) gave himself and his assistants patent quotas. (His personal tally was a record of 1,093, which has yet to be beaten.) Einstein published nearly 300 scientific papers; the third one earned him a doctorate from the University of Zurich and the fourth brought him the 1921 Nobel Prize for physics.

### BREAK THE RULES

*Rules and models destroy genius and art.*

—William Hazlitt, English writer (1778–1830)

Problems stump the average person because he or she gets stuck in a “rule rut.” That’s when ingrained patterns of thinking—erroneous assumptions, half-truths, personal experience, misplaced generalities—are mistaken for truth and all conflicting ideas are ignored. The great new ideas are just outside of the prevailing thought.

—Harry Manning

# Give a Cheer for Cherries!

*... with a myth, a mystery, and tree management tips*

## THE MYTH

On February 15, we celebrate the birthday of founding father George Washington—he who, as legend has it, chopped down a cherry tree when he was 6 years old, and when confronted by his father, said, “I can not tell a lie. I did it with my hatchet.”

Well, we can not tell a lie, either. This tale was in fact concocted by one of Washington’s biographers.

## THE MYSTERY

*The Case of the Fluky Fruit—or, How ‘Bing’ Cherries Got Their Name*

The story of the sweet ‘Bing’ cherry has all of the makings of a thriller: a violent political climate; two brothers turning a profit from a graft; a tall, strapping Manchurian man seen carrying a knife; a dark-fleshed beauty; and telltale stains on clothing. But, in truth, it’s just the tale of a fluke of nature.

In 1847, pioneer nurseryman Henderson Luelling from Iowa traveled west on the Oregon Trail, accompanied by his wife, children, and an oxcart filled with 700 young plants—apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, nuts, and cherries. After a 7-month journey, he stopped in Milwaukie, Oregon, planted his stock, and set to work grafting trees. His brother Seth (Lewelling) arrived in 1853, and the two started a business, offering trees to orchardists at \$1 to \$1.50 each.

When Henderson left the business a year later, Seth expanded the nursery to 100 acres. He employed a number of Chinese immigrants, including Ah Sit Bing from Manchuria. The tall and reli-

able Bing became Seth Lewelling’s friend as well as his foreman.

One day, while tending the test rows, Bing discovered a heart-shape cherry much darker and larger than the others. It also had a great taste. He and Lewelling took cuttings from the tree and cultivated a new variety in 1875. To honor his friend’s nursery work and to make a political statement concerning the strained relations between whites and Chinese workers in the Pacific Northwest at the time, Lewelling named the cherry ‘Bing’. And the rest is history.

## THE MANAGEMENT

*How to Grow Cherry Trees*

Sweet cherries grow in hardiness Zones 5 to 7. Self-sterile, they are best for an orchard or large garden. Plant at least two or three trees for required cross-pollination. If space is limited, consider the dwarf, self-pollinating cultivar ‘Stella’.

Cherry trees generally start bearing fruit in their fourth year; dwarf trees bear fruit a year earlier. One mature, standard-size tart or sweet cherry tree will produce 30 to 50 quarts of cherries each year; a dwarf tree, about 10 to 15 quarts.

Plant cherries in early spring or late fall (when the ground is soft and has a higher moisture content) in a sunny site with good air circulation and deep, well-drained soil.

Apply mulch and water well. After flowering in a fruiting year, drape trees with wildlife-safe netting to protect the fruit from birds. Learn more at [Almanac.com/plant/cherries](http://Almanac.com/plant/cherries).



# WEATHER FORECASTS

A CAT BASKING IN THE FEBRUARY SUN GOES TO THE STOVE AGAIN IN MARCH.

## HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

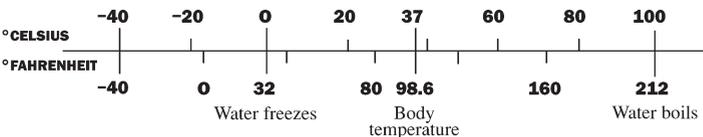
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing weather patterns; and meteorology, the study of the atmosphere. We predict weather trends and events by comparing solar patterns and historical weather conditions with current solar activity.

Our forecasts emphasize temperature and precipitation deviations from averages, or normals. These are based on 30-year statistical averages prepared by government meteorological agencies and updated every 10 years. Most-recent tabulations span the period 1981 through 2010.

We believe that nothing in the universe happens haphazardly, that there is a cause-and-effect pattern to all phenomena. However, although neither we nor any other forecasters have as yet gained sufficient insight into the mysteries of the universe to predict the weather with total accuracy, our results are almost always very close to our traditional claim of 80 percent.

### CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

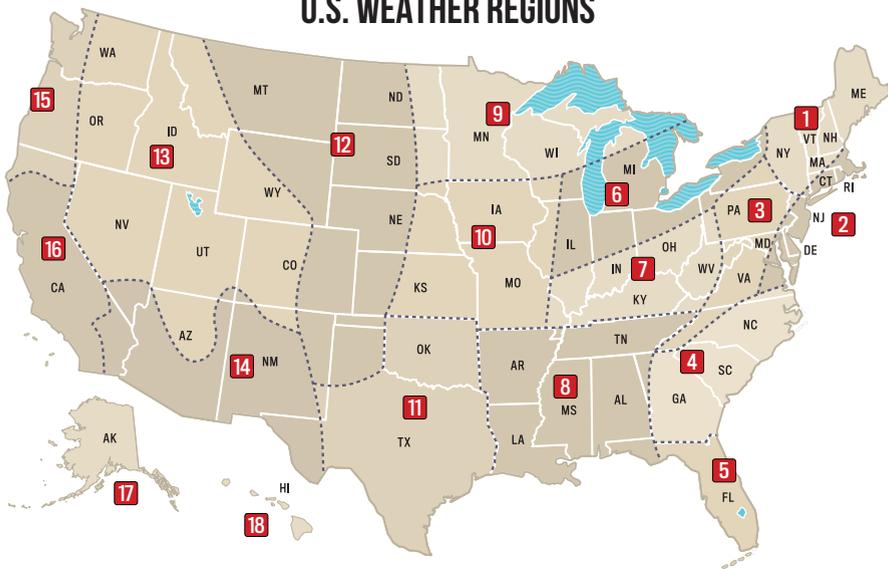


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY

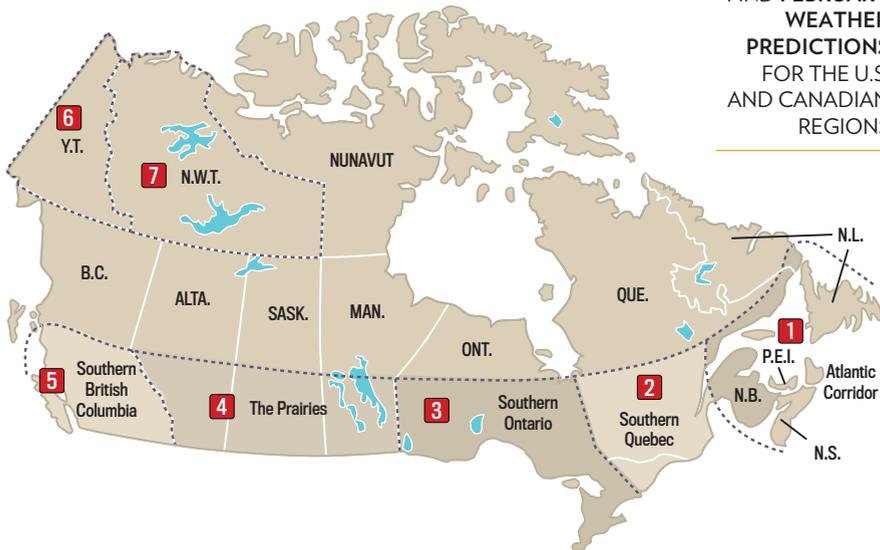


# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



CLICK HERE TO  
FIND FEBRUARY  
WEATHER  
PREDICTIONS  
FOR THE U.S.  
AND CANADIAN  
REGIONS





## WATCHING THE WATCHFUL WOODCHUCK

**T**he big question for this month is whether your local groundhog will see its shadow on February 2.

Well . . . it will in areas within a few hundred miles of the Atlantic Ocean and in Texas, the Pacific Northwest, and the Canadian Prairies, where sunshine will prevail. Elsewhere, though, clouds will be the rule, and the mysterious marmot will find itself shadowless, which legend holds will mean an early end to winter.

On February 7, Superbowl LV will be held in Tampa. Mainly clear skies, light winds, and mild to warm temperatures will bring ideal weather for the big game.

The Sun will shine on lovers in the western states on Valentine's Day, February 14, while rainy periods will dominate elsewhere, suggesting that the day may best be celebrated indoors in front of a warm, romantic fire.

Presidents' Day in the U.S., February 15, will feature sunshine across the western half of the United States and in the Deep South and Southeast and snow in the Heartland, with rainy periods elsewhere.

Overall, February will be exceptionally mild in most of the eastern two-thirds of the United States and somewhat colder than normal in the West.

Most of Canada will also have above-normal temperatures, on average, during the month, although British Columbia and northern Canada will average a bit colder than normal.

As for the rest of winter, we expect that March will bring more seasonable temperatures—within a few degrees of normal in most places, on average—while precipitation will generally be close to normal.

—*Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist*



# HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



## TAKING NO CHANCES

Senator Tillman once piloted one of his constituents around the Capitol for a while and then, having some work to do on the floor,

conducted him to the Senate gallery.

After an hour or so, the visitor—a commonsense, down-to-earth farmer—approached a gallery

doorkeeper and said:

“My name is Swate. I am a friend of Senator Tillman. He brought me here, and I want to go out and look around a bit. I thought that I



would tell you so that you could let me back in.”

“That’s all right,” said the doorkeeper, “but I may not be here when you return. In order to prevent any mistake, I’ll give you the password so you can get your seat again.”

Swate’s eyes rather popped out at all this.

“What’s the word?” he asked.

“Idiosyncrasy.”

“What?”

“Idiosyncrasy.”

“I guess I’ll stay in,” said Swate.

## WRONG BILL

Bill Ledoux was a country storekeeper down in Louisiana who one spring went to New Orleans to get a stock of goods. They were shipped home immediately and reached there before

his return. When the boxes arrived, his wife happened to take a look at the first one, uttered a loud cry, and called for a hammer. A neighbor, hearing the screams, rushed to her assistance and asked what was the matter. The wife, pale and faint, pointed to the inscription on the crate: “Bill inside.”

## TO DYE FOR

“Ma wants a package of dye, and she wants it to be a fashionable color,” said a little girl to the clerk.

“A fashionable color?” asked the man. “What does she want it for, eggs or clothes?”

“Well,” replied the girl, “the doctor says that Ma has stomach trouble and needs to diet. And Ma says that if she has to dye it, she

might as well dye it a fashionable color.”

## STRIKING SIMILARITY

The story is told of a citizen of a small town in Pennsylvania who, in the early days of the telephone, walked into a country store and saw the instrument attached to a wall. Upon being told what it was, he said that he would like to talk to his wife, whom, it turns out, he had left in a huff some hours before.

He picked up the receiver, rang the bell, and said to “Central”: “I want to talk with Sarah.”

At that moment, a severe storm broke over the wires and knocked the man down. As he picked himself up, he said, “I know that’s Sarah. I can tell it’s her every time.”

# Old Farmer's Almanac 2021 Moon Calendar

**THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC**

# MOON

**2021**

**AMAZING PHOTOS, FACTS, LORE, AND MORE!**

**Small Inset Image:** A smaller moon in a blue sky over a desert landscape.

**Small Almanac Book Image:** A small image of the Old Farmer's Almanac book.

**Calendar Inset:**

**JULY 2021**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | 5      | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |

**Special Day:** Independence Day (July 4th)

**Best Day:** (July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st)

**Other Day:** (July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st)

**Added bonus: best days for fishing and other activities based on the Moon.**

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# WHAT'S NEXT



## **GARDENING**

Winter Planting  
That Works



## **CALENDAR**

Moon phases; March  
name origin, holidays,  
and full Moon names;  
poem of the month;  
vernal equinox



## **ASTRONOMY**

Explore with  
our Sky Map



## **FOOD**

Prizewinning  
Recipes



## **AMUSEMENT**

Even More Brilliant  
Tips on How to  
Become a Genius



## **LIVING NATURALLY**

The Wonders of  
Witch Hazel

Plus: Weather Update • U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts •  
Gardening by the Moon's Sign • Best Days to Do Things •  
• Humor • and much more in the March *EXTRA!*

**CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 230TH YEAR!**