

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

▶ **STARTING SEEDS**

▶ **BEST DAYS**

▶ **HUMOR: CRINGE ALERT!**

▶ **FEBRUARY'S BIRTH FLOWER**

▶ **ALL ABOUT ALOE VERA**

▶ **INVASIVE SPECIES RUN WILD**

▶ **MAPLE SYRUP RECIPES**



**FEBRUARY 2016**





## FEATURES

### GARDENING

Starting Seeds

### LIVING NATURALLY

All About Aloe Vera

### FOOD

Maple Syrup Recipes

### NATURE

Invasive Species

Run Wild

## DEPARTMENTS

### CALENDAR

Moon View

February's Birth Flower

Folklore Fun

Monthly Happenings

Calendar Q&A

### ASTROLOGY

Best Days

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

### ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for February

*Visually navigate the night sky from your own backyard.*

### HOT PRODUCTS

Feel the Love



### WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

February U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

### WIT

Humor Me

*Grins and groans from the Almanac*

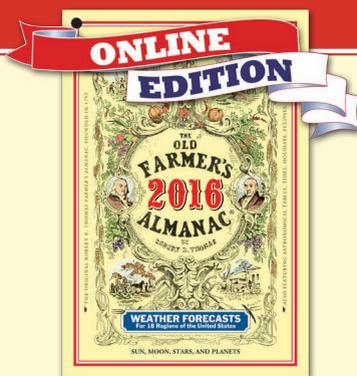
### WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our March issue!



# *The 2016 Old Farmer's Almanac* **ONLINE EDITION!**

Now enjoy **INSTANT ACCESS** to the Almanac  
from your tablet and computer



Our famous long-range weather predictions—and ALL of the content of America's best-selling and oldest annual publication—are at your fingertips.

- Flip-page technology (similar to a book)
- Classic Plus edition—features 32 extra reference pages loaded with tips
- Enlargeable type. Zoom for easier reading!
- Print, save, and share
- NO SHIPPING

Click here to buy the Online Edition in our General Store:

**Almanac.com**

Only \$4.95 for an entire year of wit and wisdom!

Or, go directly to **iTunes, Amazon, Nook, Google Play, or Kobo.**

**The Almanac is the perfect way to make every day special throughout the year!**

# THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

## HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE



### MOON VIEW

February's full Moon, the Full Snow Moon, occurs on the 22nd, at 1:20 P.M. EST.

There is no last quarter Moon in February 2016!

 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL SNOW MOON AND OTHER FUN MOON FACTS



### FEBRUARY'S ZODIAC SIGNS

Aquarius: January 20–February 19

Pisces: February 20–March 20



Renoir self portrait, 1876

### SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**You come to Nature with all your theories, and she knocks them all flat.**

—Paul-Auguste Renoir, French artist (b. February 25, 1841; d. December 3, 1919)

### FEBRUARY'S BIRTH FLOWER:

## Violet or Primrose

- The violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. Give a violet to someone to let them know that you'll always be there for them.
- The primrose lets someone know that you can't live without them.



 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

### FOLKLORE FUN

*If Candlemas Day [February 2]  
be mild and gay,  
Go saddle your horses,  
and buy them hay;  
But if Candlemas Day  
be stormy and black,  
It carries the winter  
away on its back.*



# MONTHLY HAPPENINGS



WHAT IS THE WORD FOR ADDING AN EXTRA DAY, WEEK, OR MONTH TO A CALENDAR? TAP HERE



WHEN DO LEAP YEARS OCCUR? TAP HERE



WHAT IS THE WORD FOR SOMEONE WHO IS BORN ON LEAP DAY? TAP HERE



## 29: LEAP DAY

One orbit of Earth around the Sun takes 365.2422 days—a little more than our Gregorian calendar's 365. Adding an extra day, aka a leap day, to the calendar every 4 years brings the calendar in line and therefore synchronizes with the four seasons. Without leap days, the calendar would be off by 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45 seconds each year. But it's not a perfect match: Adding a leap day every 4 years overcompensates by a few extra seconds each leap year, adding up to about 3 extra days every 10,000 years.

**WHAT IS THE WORD FOR  
ADDING AN EXTRA DAY,  
WEEK OR MONTH TO A  
CALENDAR?**

Intercalation

**WHEN DO LEAP YEARS  
OCCUR?**

A leap year is one that is divisible by four. An end-of-the-century year also must be divisible by 400 to be a leap year. 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 was not. 2016 is a leap year; the next one will be 2020.

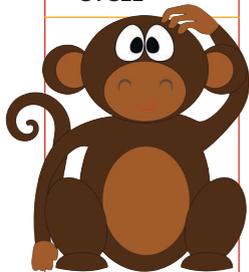
**WHAT IS THE WORD FOR  
SOMEONE WHO IS BORN  
ON LEAP DAY?**

Leapling. Years ago, babies born on Leap Day had their birthdays recorded on February 28 or March 1. Today, anybody born on February 29 is called a “leapling” (or a “29er”), and this day is his or her birthday. About 4 million people in the world are leaplings.

# CALENDAR Q&A

+ DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMALS ARE PART OF A LARGER CHINESE CALENDAR SYSTEM? TAP TO LEARN MORE

+ QUIZ IT! TAP TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE 60-YEAR STEM-BRANCH CYCLE



**Q:** In 2016, when is Chinese New Year and what animal is associated with it?

**A:** The Chinese New Year begins on February 8 (according to the Gregorian calendar). It is the Year of the Monkey, which refers to one of 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac.

Those born in the Year of the Monkey are said to be charming, clever, competitive, creative, curious, energetic, inventive, intelligent, mischievous, and optimistic. They love to try new things and have fun, but they tend to be self-oriented.

## A DEEPER LOOK

The Chinese lunisolar calendar counts its years according to the stem-branch system, which is a 60-year rotating name system also known as the Chinese sexagenary cycle. By this, a year's name actually contains two parts.

- The celestial, or heavenly, stem is taken from a rotating list of 10 terms concerning the yin/yang forms of five elements:

| Stem        | Element   | Stem        | Element    | Stem        | Element    |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>jia</i>  | yang wood | <i>ding</i> | yin fire   | <i>geng</i> | yang metal |
| <i>yi</i>   | yin wood  | <i>wu</i>   | yang earth | <i>xin</i>  | yin metal  |
| <i>bing</i> | yang fire | <i>ji</i>   | yin earth  | <i>ren</i>  | yang water |
|             |           |             |            | <i>gui</i>  | yin water  |

- The terrestrial, or earthly, branch is taken from a rotating list of the 12 animal names of the Chinese zodiac:

| Branch      | Animal | Branch      | Animal        | Branch      | Animal      |
|-------------|--------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>zi</i>   | rat    | <i>chen</i> | dragon        | <i>shen</i> | monkey      |
| <i>chou</i> | ox     | <i>si</i>   | snake         | <i>you</i>  | rooster     |
| <i>yin</i>  | tiger  | <i>wu</i>   | horse         | <i>xu</i>   | dog         |
| <i>mao</i>  | rabbit | <i>wei</i>  | sheep or goat | <i>hai</i>  | boar or pig |

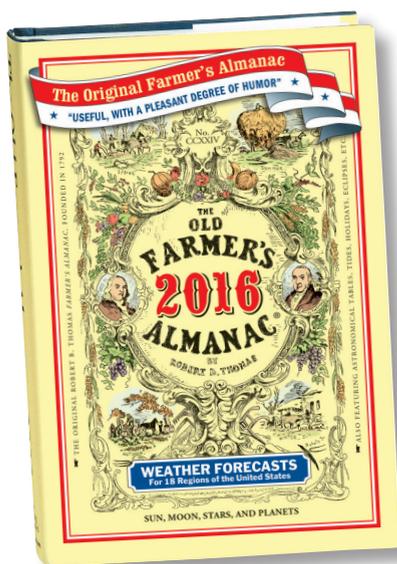
- So, putting the stem and branch terms together, the first year in a 60-year cycle is called *jia-zi* (Year of the Rat), the next is *yi-chou* (Year of the Ox), and so on. The 11th year is *jia-xu*, etc., until a new cycle starts over with *jia-zi*.
- 2016 is *bing-shen* (Year of the Monkey).

### QUESTIONS

1. In the 60-year stem-branch cycle, what year number is *bing-shen*?
2. Using the stem-branch system, what is the name for the 12th year in the cycle?
3. How is the Chinese lunisolar calendar used today?

### ANSWERS

1. 33rd.
- 2: *yi-hai*.
- 3: After the revolution in 1911, China adopted the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes. The traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, however, is used for festivals, special events, astrology, and Moon phases.



# GET 3 FREE GIFTS!

Order your Hardcover Collector's Edition for \$15.95 and enjoy a \$15.99 value, **FREE!**

**FREE** 2016 Gardening Calendar

**FREE** 1916 Replica Almanac

**FREE** 1816 Replica Almanac

This offer and our vintage replicas are only available through The Old Farmer's Almanac.

**LEARN MORE**

Printed in the USA



## BEST DAYS

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*

### PERSONAL

Begin diet to lose weight: 1, 23, 28  
 Begin diet to gain weight: 10, 14, 18  
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 13, 14  
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 25, 26  
 Have dental care: 23, 24  
 Quit smoking: 1, 23, 28  
 Wean children: 1, 23, 28

### AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 1, 26, 27  
 End projects: 7  
 Start projects: 9

### OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 5, 6  
 Go camping: 2, 3  
 Go fishing: 8–22  
 Set posts or pour concrete: 5, 6

### IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 11, 12  
 Graft or pollinate: 18, 19  
 Prune to encourage growth: 11, 12, 20  
 Prune to discourage growth: 2–4  
 Plant aboveground crops: 9, 10, 18, 19  
 Plant belowground crops: 1, 27–29  
 Harvest aboveground crops: 13, 14  
 Harvest belowground crops: 5, 6,  
 23, 24

### ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 1, 27–29  
 Castrate animals: 7, 8  
 Cut hay: 11, 12  
 Set eggs: 16, 17, 24, 25  
 Slaughter livestock: 1, 27–29  
 Wean animals: 1, 23, 28



## 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, or Pisces

**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

|               |           |           |            |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 Scorpio     | 9 Pisces  | 17 Gemini | 25 Libra   |
| 2 Sagittarius | 10 Pisces | 18 Cancer | 26 Libra   |
| 3 Sagittarius | 11 Aries  | 19 Cancer | 27 Scorpio |
| 4 Sagittarius | 12 Aries  | 20 Leo    | 28 Scorpio |
| 5 Capricorn   | 13 Taurus | 21 Leo    | 29 Scorpio |
| 6 Capricorn   | 14 Taurus | 22 Virgo  |            |
| 7 Aquarius    | 15 Gemini | 23 Virgo  |            |
| 8 Aquarius    | 16 Gemini | 24 Virgo  |            |



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



**APP EXTRA!**  
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.

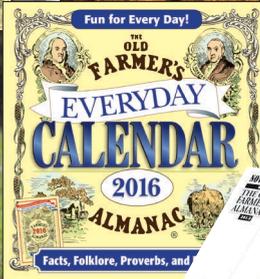
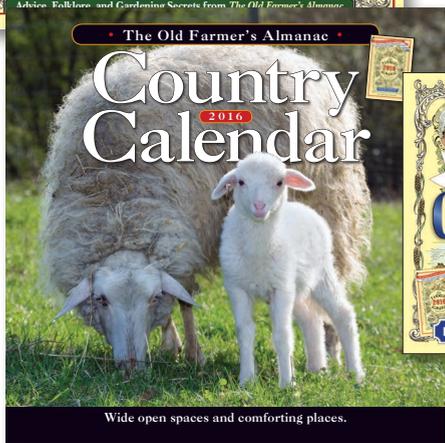
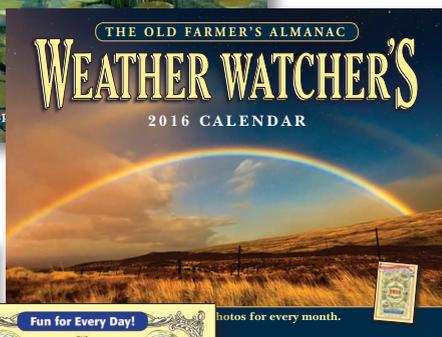
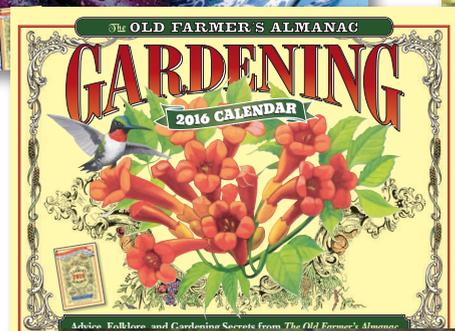
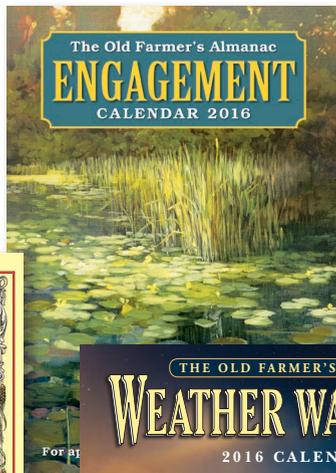
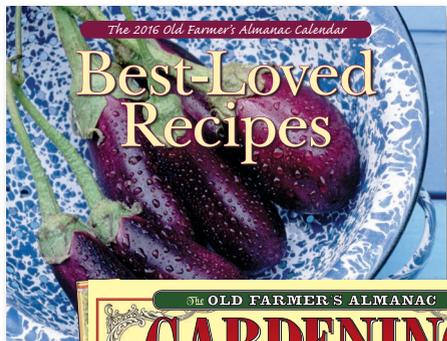
When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

**In 2016, Mercury will be retrograde from April 28–May 22, August 30–September 22, and December 19–31.**

*–Celeste Longacre*

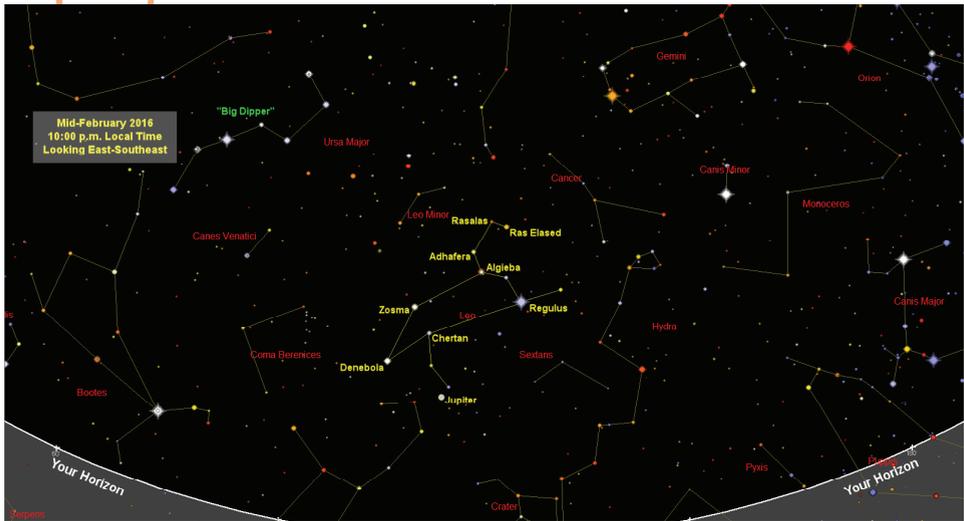
# 2016 Almanac Calendars SHIPPING NOW!

Choose from Gardening, Weather Watcher's, Country,  
Best-Loved Recipes, Everyday, or Engagement.



**SHOP NOW**

\$9.99-\$14.99 | Printed in the USA



## THE KING OF PLANETS AND THE LION IN WINTER

### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
FEBRUARY  
SKY MAP

### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES

The giant planet Jupiter and the constellation Leo the Lion are paired together in the February sky. Take the opportunity to view the King of Planets and the celestial King of Beasts—even if cold weather sends you scurrying back indoors after only a few minutes.

Look for Jupiter in the late evening during February. It's located fairly low in the sky in the east-southeast. Jupiter is hard to miss, being the brightest object in the sky other than the Moon.

By any measure, Jupiter is a mighty planet. Its mass is greater than that of all the other planets in our solar system added together. More than a thousand Earths could fit inside Jupiter with room to spare! Plus, at least 67 moons orbit Jupiter. Not for nothing is it known as the King of Planets.





Jupiter is one of five planets known since ancient times. It became one of the first celestial objects ever observed with a telescope when Galileo Galilei turned his crude instrument toward it in 1610.

In February, and for the next few months, Jupiter sits near the hind foot of Leo the Lion. Leo is among the few constellations whose outline truly resembles its namesake. Many ancient cultures, some dating from at least 6,000 years ago, perceived a lion when gazing upon this part of the sky. This makes Leo one of the oldest constellations to be recognized.

**T**he bright star Regulus represents the heart of the lion. Regulus is the 21st brightest star in the sky. However, when you compare it with Jupiter, the planet is clearly the brighter of the two.

Four stars in the head and neck of Leo have Arabic names relating to the lion's anatomy. Starting with the head of Leo, we have Ras Elased and Rasalas, meaning the "southern/northern star of the lion's head," respectively. Next come Adhafera, the "curl," which refers to the lion's mane, followed by Algieba, the "forehead." You might wonder why a star so clearly located in Leo's mane or neck is called the forehead. Unfortunately, the reasoning behind the name is lost in the mists of time.

From Algieba, look to the left along Leo's back to find Zosma. Located on the hip of the lion, Zosma is an ancient Greek word meaning "girdle." Just below Zosma is Chertan, a name referring to the "ribs" of the lion. This also seems slightly out of place, given the anatomy of a lion. Not so with Denebola, whose very appropriate name comes from the Arabic for "tail of the lion."

**I**f you are stargazing from a very dark location, you might be able to see another lion in this region of the sky. Not far above the head and back of Leo sit a sparse collection of dim stars comprising Leo Minor, or Smaller Lion. Compared to the very recognizable figure of Leo, the Smaller Lion looks nothing like any sort of animal. Whereas Leo is a constellation of great antiquity, Leo Minor is a newcomer. Astronomer Johannes Hevelius invented the name in 1687 to identify the mostly empty space between Leo and Ursa Major.

Compared to the King of Planets and the King of Beasts, Leo Minor is a mere afterthought.

*-Jeff DeTray*

# FEEL THE LOVE



## RED TULIP PANTRY BOTTLE

Every well-stocked pantry needs one of these versatile bottles. Handpainted in the USA by White Gate Glass. Dishwasher-safe. **\$17.95**

[LEARN MORE](#)

## CANVAS MARKET TOTES

Choose from three inspirational designs from Primitives by Kathy. Save 40% while supplies last. **\$19.17**

[LEARN MORE](#)

## LAVENDER ROSEMARY SOY WAX CANDLE

Handmade by Michel Design Works, these all-natural candles are 100% clean-burning soy wax. Each candle comes in a printed glass container packaged in a footed box with a wooden ring pull and gold foil accents. **\$17.99**

[LEARN MORE](#)



## CHEMICAL-FREE ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Easily wipe away life's messes, while pure scents uplift and energize. This nontoxic, all-purpose cleaner from Just Naturals gently works on appliances, countertops, granite, walls, tile, vinyl, and more. **\$7.95**

[LEARN MORE](#)



Announcing the 2016  
*Old Farmer's Almanac*

# Garden-to-Table Experience!

June 20–26, 2016

Join *The Old Farmer's Almanac* for this unique tour celebrating the garden-to-table experience! Starting in Philadelphia and continuing into Delaware and New York, the tour features stops at 10 of the Northeast's most revered gardens, farms, and arboretums. These will serve as a backdrop to our culinary adventures with gourmet food prepared by award-winning chefs and restaurants that stress the connection between where food comes from and how we enjoy it.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac* Garden-to-Table Experience includes . . .

- Exclusive tours of Scott Arboretum (Swarthmore), Winterthur House and Gardens, Chanticleer Garden, and the New York Botanical Garden
- Private tours and locally sourced lunches at Longwood Gardens, the Morris Arboretum, and Mohonk Mountain House
- Visit to and lunch at Fordhook Farm, a private garden owned and operated by Burpee Seed Co.
- Tour of Stone Barns Center AND exclusive farm-to-table lunch at Stone Barns' Blue Hill restaurant
- Visit to Stonecrop Gardens with a talk from the Garden Conservancy

For a detailed itinerary and pricing, visit [www.almanac.com/garden-tours](http://www.almanac.com/garden-tours).

**Call 727-330-7738 or email [info@specialinteresttours.com](mailto:info@specialinteresttours.com) to reserve your space or for more information. BOOK NOW—SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Garden-to-Table Lunches



Burpee's Fordhook Farm



Chanticleer Garden



Mohonk Mountain House



GARDENING



# STARTING SEEDS

Here's a fast, almost foolproof, space-saving, no-mess way to start plants.

## GARDENING

### YOU WILL NEED:

paper toweling that won't  
shred easily

gallon- or quart-size  
resealable plastic bag/s

lightproof 8.5x11-inch  
or larger brown envelope  
or similar

indelible marker

labels for each bag



**1.** Sprinkle a paper towel with water until it's completely damp. Lay it out on a counter.

**2.** Spread several rows of seeds about halfway up the towel. The larger the seeds, the more space they need: Space tiny seeds like basil or parsley about 3/4 of an inch apart and big seeds like zinnias or squash 1-1/2 inches or so.

If you lay out more than one type of seed per towel, put those of similar size and germination times together (e.g., several varieties of tomatoes or peppers).

**3.** Fold the unseeded portion of the towel half back on the seeds. (Alternatively, cut each wet towel in half. Scatter one type of seed on one half; cover with remaining half.)

**4.** Write the seed type/s in order on the towel with the marker. Do the same to the bag label/s. Write the date on which you put the seeds into the bag. Later, check this date against the

## GARDENING

**+** TAP TO LEARN  
HOW TO  
PLANT SEEDS



seed packets' predicted germination time. The paper towel method is usually quicker.

**5.** Moisten the plastic bag's insides—but leave no standing water in it. Smooth the folded, seeded towel and slide it into the bag, keeping it flat. Close the bag, gently pressing out the air inside. Put it into your lightproof envelope. Store in a place that is 70° to 80°F. (Store seeds that need to be cool, like annual larkspur, at lower temperatures.)

**6.** Every couple of days, check the seed towel to make sure that it is not too dry; sprinkle water off your fingertips, if necessary.

**7.** In the days leading up to the seed packet's predicted germination date, hold the plastic bag up to light to see if the seeds have sprouted. When they have sprouted, transplant them to flats or individual pots filled with potting soil.

—Andrew Nemethy

### **PLANT YOUR SEEDS!**

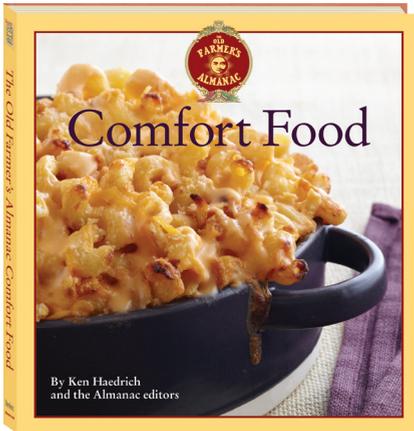
The white sprout coming out of the seed is the root. The leaves emerge from the seed head. Use a sharp pencil or small knife to gently pick up the seeds, which are usually sticky and adhere to the point.

To plant long roots, poke a hole in the soil with a stick or knitting needle and drop in the seed so that the head is even with the surface; for small seeds, make a small hole. If the seed has sent roots through the paper towel, plant the piece of toweling with the root.

Cover the seeds lightly with soil and water gently. In a day or two, the leaves will be up, stretching toward the Sun. Save all of your bags to reuse next year, and get ready to enjoy your veggies and flowers this season.

—A. N.

# Cook Up Some Comfort!



America's most trusted Almanac brings you America's tastiest comfort food in a NEW cookbook. You'll find every dish you love, every recipe you want: **More than 200 recipes, plus 140 timesaving tips** for bringing great-tasting recipes to the table, each one guaranteed to keep family and friends coming back for more!



Get yours today at:

**[Almanac.com/ComfortFood](http://Almanac.com/ComfortFood)**

Also available for purchase as an eBook or wherever books are sold.

LIVING NATURALLY

# ALL ABOUT ALOE VERA



PHOTO: VITALY RADUNTSEV/SHUTTERSTOCK

## LIVING NATURALLY

**A**mong the easiest-to-grow houseplants, aloe vera will decorate a kitchen shelf with quiet grace while doing double duty as a self-regenerating first-aid kit.

A native of southern Africa, aloe vera has fleshy leaves containing numerous plant compounds with antimicrobial, pain-reducing, anti-oxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties. Used medicinally for at least 6,000 years, the succulent plant spread throughout the world to become important in the traditional medicine of ancient Egypt, Rome, Greece, Persia, and India, and throughout Asia and Africa. The Spanish introduced aloe vera to South America and the Caribbean.

### EVERYDAY HEALTH USES

Scientific evidence supports using the jellylike substance inside aloe vera leaves for alleviating pain and helping to heal everyday burns, abrasions, bruises, boils, canker sores, and other mouth sores. It may also alleviate symptoms of minor frostbite, herpes (both cold sores and shingles), hemorrhoids, psoriasis, and acne.

Some folks use aloe vera gel for dental hygiene. Many people use it to treat dandruff and as a general hair conditioner.

Although aloe is under investigation for use in diabetes, lowering LDL cholesterol, many digestive system disorders, and some cancers, health experts warn people



ALOE HAS ANTIMICROBIAL,  
PAIN-REDUCING,  
ANTI-OXIDANT, AND  
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY  
PROPERTIES.

## LIVING NATURALLY



USING THE FRESH LEAF IS THE FRESHEST, LEAST EXPENSIVE WAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALOE'S EVERYDAY HEALING PROPERTIES.

not to take any fresh or processed aloe product internally, by mouth or injection, unless under the direct care of a doctor.

Recent research has shown that aloe doesn't heal deep surgical wounds or radiation burns or prevent sunburn (though it will soothe a summer burn).

Warning: Many sources of information about this plant mention aloe vera's value as a laxative. Its harsh laxative effect doesn't come from the aloe gel, but from the

“latex” or “juice” derived from the cells just under the outer skin of the leaves. In 2002, the FDA ruled that it could no longer be sold as an over-the-counter laxative.

### USING THE **FRESH LEAF**

Hundreds of aloe-containing products have flooded the market, but using the leaf is the freshest, least expensive way to take advantage of aloe's everyday healing properties.

Simply remove one of the swordlike leaves from

a living plant and slice it open along its length. Then either squeeze out the gelatinous material and apply it to the affected part or lay the entire opened leaf side directly over the affected part and bandage it lightly in place.

Applied topically, aloe vera gel has no serious side effects, although a few people experience allergic skin reactions to it. Try a small amount on a patch of skin; if you notice a rash, swelling, or itching, discontinue use.

## LIVING NATURALLY

### ALOE FOR HAIR AND SKIN

Among the most common ingredients in commercial hair- and skin-conditioning products, fresh aloe vera gel works well as a homemade beauty aid.

Scrape it out of the leaves and use it as a hair gel or instead of your usual conditioner.

Note: Aloe vera gel is thin and watery.

It makes a great conditioning agent, but won't work as a thickener or styling agent. And don't rely on aloe to prevent hair loss or regrow lost hair.

To use it as a skin moisturizer and toner,

just scoop out the gel or rub a freshly cut leaf over your face and let it dry.

### GROWING ALOE VERA

Aloe vera will thrive outdoors only in the frost-free regions of North America. But even the most horticulturally challenged can't fail with aloe vera as a houseplant.

Once you have one, pretty much the only way to kill it is by overwatering. The plants reproduce enthusiastically by sending out new shoots from their roots, called "pups," which you can pull up and replant.

If you know anyone with a thriving aloe vera

plant, he or she will probably be glad to pull one out for you. Plant it in good potting soil (one made for cacti is ideal), set it in a sunny spot, and watch it grow.

### USE IN AGRICULTURE

The gel is such a safe and effective antifungal agent that agricultural scientists have begun experimenting with the use of aloe vera extracts as natural fungicides to protect growing crops. They've also found that spraying aloe vera extracts onto various kinds of ripe fruit helps to protect and extend their shelf life.

—Margaret Boyles

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



PHOTO: WAVEBREAK MEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

SCOOP OUT THE GEL OR RUB A FRESHLY CUT LEAF OVER YOUR FACE.

FOOD



TAP TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
MAPLE SYRUP



# Maple Syrup Recipes

Today most people pour maple syrup onto pancakes or use it in dessert recipes. But maple syrup is a versatile ingredient. Here are some recipes for making breakfast, lunch, and dinner just a little sweeter.

## THE HISTORY OF MAPLE SYRUP

We have Native Americans to thank for discovering maple syrup, although the exact telling of the tale varies. According to one legend, a chief stuck his tomahawk into a maple tree one spring night. In the morning, he pulled it out and went off hunting. His wife had placed a container under the tree, and the clear, watery sap dripped into it. Later, she needed water to cook some meat. She thought the liquid in the bucket was water, so she used it. As it cooked, the water evaporated until syrup was left. The sweet meat was the best they had ever tasted, and soon the entire tribe was cooking with maple sap.

## MAPLE SYRUP TRIVIA

- Maple sugar was the most common sweetener in the northern United States and Canada until the late 1800s, when white sugar took its place.
- The northeastern United States and southeastern Canada are the only places in the world where sugar maples grow naturally and weather conditions are right to harvest sap.

FOOD

# Maple Granola

 TAP FOR RECIPE



SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

## MAPLE GRANOLA

*This healthy granola is great with yogurt or eaten straight out of the container!*

- 3-1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats**
- 2/3 cup maple syrup**
- 1/2 cup shredded unsweetened coconut**
- 1/2 cup chopped almonds (optional)**
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds**
- 1 cup raisins, dried cranberries, and/or dried cherries**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 225°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2.** Combine oats, maple syrup, coconut, almonds (if using), oil, and sesame seeds. Spread on prepared baking sheet.
- 3.** Bake until granola is golden brown, up to about 1-1/2 hours. Remove from oven every 15 minutes to stir.
- 4.** Transfer to a bowl and stir in raisins. When cooled, store in a container with a lid.

**Makes about 6 cups.**

FOOD

# Maple Teriyaki Chicken



TAP FOR  
RECIPE



## MAPLE TERIYAKI CHICKEN

*A hint of maple mellows the sweet-sour flavor of teriyaki. For party food, prepare recipe using chicken wings.*

- 1/4 cup Hoisin sauce**
- 1/4 cup soy sauce**
- 1/4 cup rice vinegar**
- 1/4 cup maple syrup**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 teaspoon minced fresh ginger**
- 2 pounds chicken pieces**

**1.** Combine Hoisin sauce, soy sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, garlic, and ginger. Add chicken pieces and stir well to coat. Place in refrigerator for 2 to 6 hours.

**2.** Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a baking sheet.

**3.** Arrange chicken on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes or until well browned.

**Makes about 4 servings.**



SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

FOOD

# Maple-Orange Glazed Vegetables

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE



## MAPLE-ORANGE GLAZED VEGETABLES

*This easy glaze can be added to a variety of vegetables and is particularly good with baked squash—just brush it on during the last few minutes of cooking.*

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

**4 to 6 large carrots or parsnips, or a combination of both, peeled and cut into thick slices**

**1 tablespoon butter**

**1/4 cup maple syrup**

**2 tablespoons frozen orange juice concentrate**

**pinch of salt**

**pinch of nutmeg**

**1.** In a pot of salted, boiling water, cook carrots until tender but still firm. Drain and set aside.

**2.** In a skillet, melt butter. Add maple syrup, orange juice, salt, and nutmeg. Add carrots and stir until glazed, about 2 minutes.

**Makes 4 to 6 servings.**

FOOD

# Maple Mustard



TAP FOR  
RECIPE



## MAPLE MUSTARD

*This spicy, sweet mustard is excellent with smoked meats or in sandwiches. Add a little to mayonnaise for potato or pasta salads.*

**1/2 cup ground mustard**

**1/4 cup brown sugar**

**2 teaspoons all-purpose flour**

**pinch of salt**

**1/2 cup maple syrup**

**1/4 cup white vinegar**

**1.** Combine mustard, brown sugar, flour, and salt in a saucepan. Stir in maple syrup and vinegar. Cook, stirring with a whisk, until mixture boils and thickens slightly. Reduce heat and gently boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Cool and pour into small jars. Cover and store in the refrigerator.

**Makes about 3/4 cup.**

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

“Everything you need to plan your vegetable garden”



## Plan Your Garden the Easy Way

Draw your ideal garden layout

Access detailed growing advice for each plant

View your personalized planting calendar  
& receive planting reminders by email



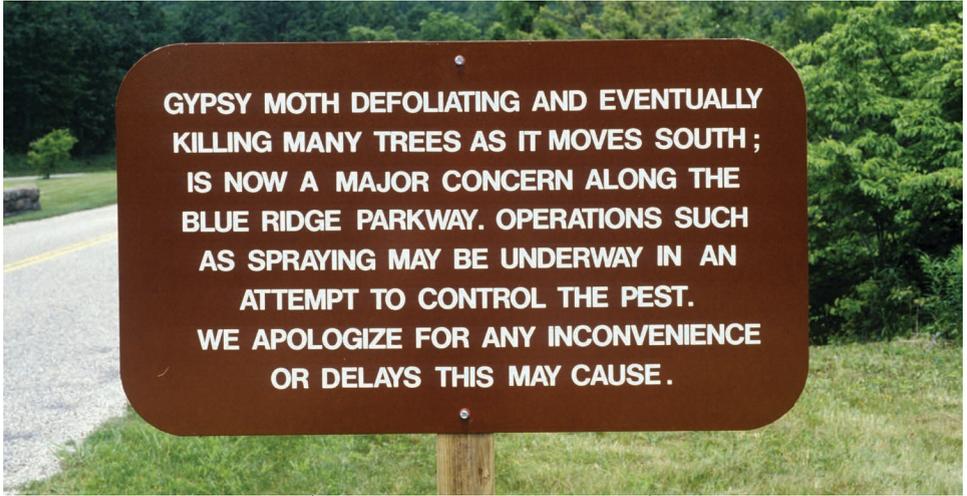
NATURE

A SWARM OF  
STARLINGS CAN  
NUMBER IN  
THE MILLIONS.

# INVASIVE SPECIES RUN WILD

HOW TWO SEEMINGLY GOOD  
IDEAS WENT TERRIBLY WRONG

## NATURE



**E**cologically speaking, the most dangerous guests are the insects, animals, and plants that arrived here by accident, or simply through bad judgment, and stayed. Unfortunately, there are thousands of these unwanted guests now—pests responsible for billions of dollars of environmental damage each year. Here are two of these invaders.

### WANDERING GYPSY MOTHS

**T**he gypsy moth is a classic example of an invited pest that is here to stay. It arrived on North American shores because of one man's desire to become wealthy in the silk industry. Etienne Léopold Trouvelot (1827–95), a native of France, professional painter, and recognized amateur entomologist, had moved his

family to Medford, Massachusetts, in 1852. It is believed that he received some gypsy moth specimens in the mail in 1868. Hoping to crossbreed the gypsy moth with the mulberry silkworm, he began cultivating them in a shed on his property—some seven or eight treed acres, most of which he had under netting. Eventually, he released some gypsy moths to feed on the foliage of his trees.

GYPSY MOTHS FEED ON MORE THAN 300 SPECIES OF TREES.

## NATURE

Somehow, some larvae got away from him (some records suggest that wind carried them away) and thrived because of the lack of predators and parasites. Not until 20 years later did local residents realize that it was these

+ TAP FOR MORE ABOUT **GYPSY MOTHS**

nonnative moths that were defoliating and destroying their fruit and shade trees and thus began to look for ways to exterminate the pests.

Today, gypsy moths are established in all of the northeastern United States and portions of the Southeast and Midwest, plus portions of eastern Canada. Efforts to eliminate them have been under way through the USDA Forest Service and on local levels.



### THE BARD'S BIRDS

Eugene Schieffelin (1827–1906), a German immigrant and drug maker living in New York City's Bronx borough, was consumed by two great passions: Shakespeare and birds. By some accounts, it was Schieffelin's former interest that inspired a pursuit of the latter and would eventually land

him a dubious standing in the annals of history: importer into North America of every bird species mentioned in the plays of William Shakespeare (64 in all). Not coincidentally, Schieffelin was chairman of the American Acclimatization Society, whose members' stated goal was the introduction of species.

Some of the Bard's birds did not survive in their new home, but one line from Henry IV spoken by Hotspur gave Schieffelin some hope: "I'll have a starling shall be taught to speake nothing but 'Mortimer' . . ."

Thus, on the morning of March 6, 1890, Schieffelin and a few of his servants entered Central Park and released 60 starlings from their cages. These birds, some sources

OAK, WILLOW, AND ASPEN TREES ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE.

## **GYPSY MOTHS**

- Natural predators include ants, deer mice, and shrews. The presence of hair on gypsy moth larvae is believed to make them unattractive to birds.

## NATURE

+ TAP FOR  
MORE ABOUT  
STARLINGS



SWARMS, AKA MURMURATIONS, OF MILLIONS OF  
STARLINGS ARE HAZARDOUS TO AIR TRAVEL.

claim, made a beeline to the American Museum of Natural History and set about building nests under its roofline (starlings seek out cavities for nesting, often bullying native birds for space). The following year, Schieffelin released 40 more starlings. It is believed that of those freed, 16 pairs ultimately survived.

Today, starlings are one of the most populous avian species

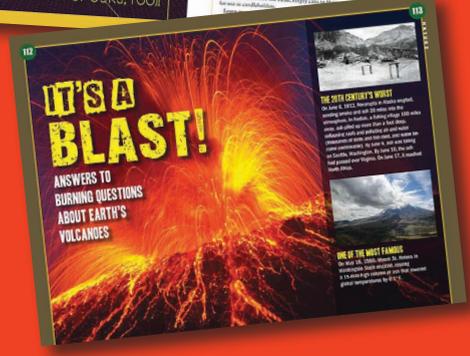
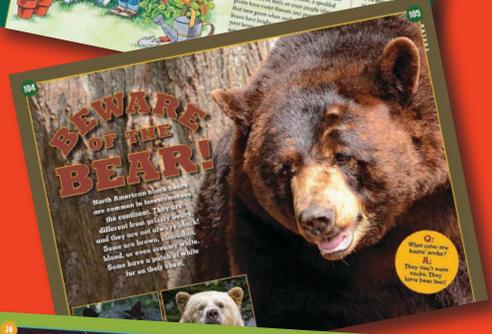
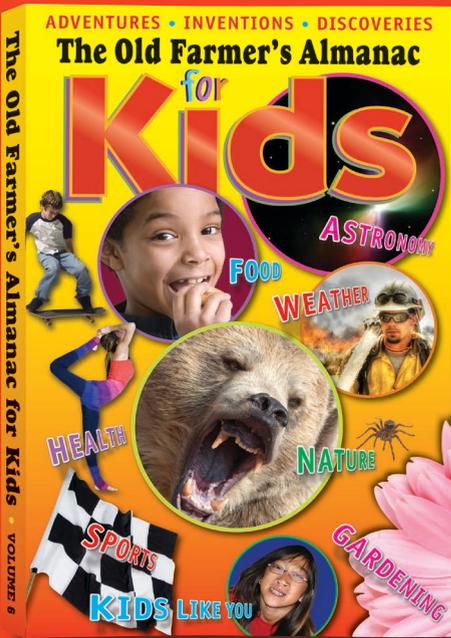
in North America (estimates run to 200 million)—and, by many accounts, the most problematic. Wintering flocks of starlings mingle with blackbirds and cowbirds and create enormous problems: They eat feed grain, blueberries, cherries, and other pitted fruits, as well as apples. They consume suet and seed in residential bird feeders, depleting the resources available to smaller birds. If a lot

of starlings (among other birds) roost in the same location, their droppings can contaminate the soil, resulting in fungal spores that can become airborne and, when inhaled, cause histoplasmosis, a respiratory illness. Swarms, aka murmurations, of millions of starlings are hazardous to air travel.

Adapted from “Unforgettable Gifts From Pandora’s Box” by Art Sordillo, in *A Millennium Primer, The Old Farmer’s Almanac: Timeless Truths and Delightful Diversions* (Grand Central Publishing, 1999).

## STARLINGS

- Starlings are remarkable mimics, able to copy sounds ranging from the songs of other birds to auto alarms to the human voice. In the 5th century B.C., Greeks and Romans kept them caged and taught them human speech.
- Starlings are repelled by grape flavoring. “Fogging” with a grape-flavor agent is an effective deterrent to their roosting.
- Schieffelin Avenue in the Bronx, New York, is named for Edward Schieffelin.



All-new and packed with more fun than ever!

The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids, Volume 6

Keep youngsters entertained for hours with fun facts, fascinating stories, and easy projects and activities!

LEARN MORE!

\$9.95 | Printed in the USA



# WEATHER FORECASTS

WHEN THE CAT IN FEBRUARY LIES IN THE SUN,  
SHE WILL AGAIN CREEP BEHIND THE STOVE 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.

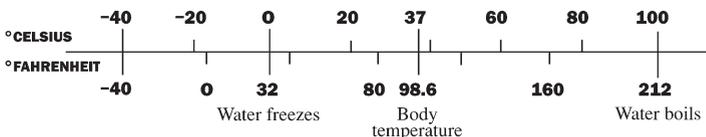


TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

### CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE





# WEATHER FORECASTS

## MAP OF U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## MAP OF CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS





## WEATHER FORECASTS

WHEN THE CAT IN FEBRUARY LIES IN THE SUN,  
SHE WILL AGAIN CREEP BEHIND THE STOVE IN MARCH.

### U.S. FORECASTS FEBRUARY 2016

#### REGION 1: **NORTHEAST**

---

Temp. 27° (4° above avg.); precip. 4.5" (2" above avg.). 1–7 Snow, then periods of rain and snow, mild. 8–15 Rain and snow showers, seasonable. 16–23 Snow, then rainy periods, mild. 24–29 Blizzard, then flurries, cold.

#### REGION 2: **ATLANTIC CORRIDOR**

---

Temp. 38° (4° above avg.); precip. 5" (2" above avg.). 1–5 Sunny, turning mild. 6–9 Heavy rain, then sunny, cold. 10–18 Flurries, cold north; showers, mild south. 19–23 Rain, then sunny, mild. 24–29 Periods of rain and snow.

#### REGION 3: **APPALACHIANS**

---

Temp. 32° (2° above avg.); precip. 3.5" (1" above avg.). 1–4 Rain to snow, then sunny, cold. 5–7 Rain to snow. 8–10 Flurries, cold. 11–15 Rainy periods, mild. 16–22 Snow, then showers, mild. 23–29 Rain to snow, then sunny, cold.

#### REGION 4: **SOUTHEAST**

---

Temp. 47° (1° above avg.); precip. 6" (2" above avg.). 1–4 Rain, then sunny, cold. 5–9 Rain to snow, then sunny, cold. 10–15 Rain arriving, mild. 16–18 Sunny. 19–24 Rainy periods, mild. 25–29 Sunny, cold.

#### REGION 5: **FLORIDA**

---

Temp. 62° (1° above avg.); precip. 1.5" (1" below avg.). 1–6 Showers, cool. 7–13 Sunny, turning warm. 14–24 Scattered showers, warm. 25–29 Sunny, cool.

#### REGION 6: **LOWER LAKES**

---

Temp. 29° (2° above avg.); precip. 3" (1" above avg.). 1–4 Snow, then turning mild. 5–9 Snowstorm, then flurries, cold. 10–20 Rainy periods, mild. 21–23 Sunny, cold. 24–29 Snowstorm, then rain and snow showers.



## WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 7: OHIO VALLEY

---

Temp. 35° (1° above avg.); precip. 4" (1" above avg.). 1–4 Snowstorm, then flurries, cold. 5–9 Snowstorm, then flurries, cold. 10–15 Rainy periods, mild. 16–22 Snow, then rainy periods, mild. 23–26 Snowstorm, then sunny, cold. 27–29 Rain to snow.

### REGION 8: DEEP SOUTH

---

Temp. 46° (1° below avg.); precip. 5" (avg.). 1–3 Snow, then sunny, very cold. 4–8 Rain, then sunny, cold. 9–15 Scattered t-storms, mild. 16–17 Sunny, cool. 18–22 Showers, mild. 23–26 Snow north, rain south; then sunny, cool. 27–29 Showers, cool.

### REGION 9: UPPER MIDWEST

---

Temp. 12° (avg.); precip. 1" (avg.). 1–6 Snow showers, very cold. 7–18 Snow showers, turning mild. 19–24 Snow, then flurries, cold. 25–29 Snow showers, cold.

### REGION 10: HEARTLAND

---

Temp. 30° (1° below avg.); precip. 1.5" (0.5" above avg. north, 0.5" below south). 1–4 Sunny, turning mild. 5–10 Snow, then sunny, mild. 11–17 Rain and snow, then sunny, cold. 18–25 Showers, mild; then flurries, cold. 26–29 Snow, then sunny, cold.

### REGION 11: TEXAS-OKLAHOMA

---

Temp. 50.5° (2° below avg. north, 3° above south); precip. 1.5" (avg. north, 1" below south). 1–3 Sunny, cool. 4–10 Showers, then sunny, warm. 11–13 Showers, warm. 14–17 Rain to snow north; sunny, mild south. 18–22 Showers; cool north, warm south. 23–29 Snow north, rain south, then sunny, cool.

### REGION 12: HIGH PLAINS

---

Temp. 26° (2° below avg.); precip. 1" (0.5" above avg.). 1–10 Snow, then sunny, mild. 11–16 Flurries north, snowstorm south; turning cold. 17–29 Snow showers, cold.



## WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 13: INTERMOUNTAIN

---

Temp. 33° (1° below avg.); precip. 1" (0.5" below avg.). 1–9 A few showers north, sunny south; mild. 10–16 Rain and snow showers north; snowstorm, then flurries south; cold. 17–23 Snow showers, very cold. 24–29 Flurries north, snowstorm central, sunny south; cold.

### REGION 14: DESERT SOUTHWEST

---

Temp. 48° (3° below avg.); precip. 0.2" (0.3" below avg.). 1–9 Sunny, mild. 10–21 Showers, then sunny, cold. 22–29 Rain and snow showers, then sunny, cold.

### REGION 15: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

---

Temp. 43° (1° below avg.); precip. 5" (avg.). 1–8 Rainy periods, mild. 9–16 Showers, cool. 17–25 Periods of rain and snow, cold. 26–29 Rainy, cool.

### REGION 16: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

---

Temp. 53° (2° below avg.); precip. 1" (2" below avg.). 1–6 Sunny, mild. 7–15 A few showers, cool. 16–18 Sunny, cool. 19–29 Showers, then sunny, cool.

### REGION 17: ALASKA

---

Temp. –20° N, 33° S (6° below avg. N, 2° above S); precip. 0.2" N, 4" S (avg.). 1–9 Snow showers, turning cold N+C; periods of rain and snow, mild S. 10–15 Flurries, cold N+WC; flurries, mild C; rain and snow, mild S. 16–29 Snow showers, some heavy; very cold.

**KEY:** Panhandle (P), Aleutians (A), north (N), central (C), south (S), west-central (WC), east-central (EC), south-central (SC), elsewhere (EW)

### REGION 18: HAWAII

---

Temp. 73.5° (1° below avg. E, 2° above W); precip. 0.5" (1.5" below avg.). 1–6 Widely separated showers, warm. 7–14 Scattered showers, warm C+W; rainy periods, cool E. 15–17 T-storms, cool. 18–29 Scattered showers, warm C+W; daily t-storms, cool E.

**KEY:** east (E), central (C), west (W)



## WEATHER FORECASTS

IF BEES GET OUT IN FEBRUARY,  
THE NEXT DAY WILL BE WINDY AND RAINY.

# CANADIAN FORECASTS FEBRUARY 2016

## REGION 1: ATLANTIC CANADA

---

Temp.  $-1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  above avg.); precip. 40mm (50mm below avg.). 1–6 Snow to rain, then showers, mild. 7–16 Heavy rain, then snow showers, cold. 17–20 Snow, then flurries, cold. 21–25 Rain, then sunny, cold. 26–29 Rain to snow, then flurries, cold.

## REGION 2: SOUTHERN QUEBEC

---

Temp.  $-7.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  above avg.); precip. 100mm (40mm above avg.). 1–5 Snowstorm, then flurries. 6–11 Snowstorm, then flurries, cold. 12–16 Snowstorm, then flurries, milder. 17–20 Snowstorm, then flurries, mild. 21–25 Snow, then flurries, cold. 26–29 Snowstorm.

## RÉGION 2: QUÉBEC DU SUD

---

Temp.  $-7,5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  au-dessus de la moy.); précip. 100mm (40mm au-dessus de la moy.). 1–5 Tempête de neige, puis rafales. 6–11 Tempête de neige, puis rafales, froid. 12–16 Tempête de neige, puis rafales, plus doux. 17–20 Tempête de neige, puis rafales, doux. 21–25 Neige, puis rafales, froid. 26–29 Tempête de neige.

## REGION 3: SOUTHERN ONTARIO

---

Temp.  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  above avg.); precip. 65mm (20mm above avg.). 1–7 Snow showers, turning very cold. 8–10 Flurries, mild. 11–19 Snowstorm, then flurries east; flurries west; mild. 20–26 Snow, then flurries, cold. 27–29 Snow showers, mild.

## REGION 4: THE PRAIRIES

---

Temp.  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  above avg.); precip. 25mm (10mm above avg.). 1–10 A few flurries, turning quite mild. 11–19 Flurries; cold, then mild. 20–23 Flurries; mild east, cold west. 24–29 Flurries, cold.



## CANADIAN WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 5: SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

---

Temp. 0°C (avg.); precip. 90mm (20mm below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, cold. 3–9 Rainy southwest, rain and snow showers elsewhere; mild. 10–11 Sunny. 12–18 Rainy periods south, snow showers north; mild. 19–23 Snow, then flurries, cold. 24–29 Rain and snow coast, flurries inland; cold.

### REGION 6: YUKON

---

Temp. -16°C (3°C above avg.); precip. 15mm (5mm below avg.). 1–18 Flurries, mild. 19–29 Snow showers, cold.

### REGION 7: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

---

Temp. -23°C (3°C above avg.); precip. 16mm (5mm above avg.). 1–8 Flurries, cold. 9–15 Flurries; very cold east, mild west. 16–19 Snow showers, mild. 20–29 Snow showers; mild east, frigid west.



## WEATHER UPDATE

# YES, THERE WILL BE A WINTER!

**W**ith the strongest El Niño on record taking control of our weather, November was a very unusual month, as the entire United States had temperatures above normal, with departures from normal ranging from about a degree in parts of the West to 9 degrees in parts of Minnesota.

Temperatures in December were exceptionally warm, as nearly the entire eastern half of the United States

experienced temperatures more than 10 degrees above normal, while the coldest places in the West relative to normal were only 1 degree below.

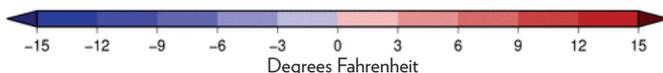
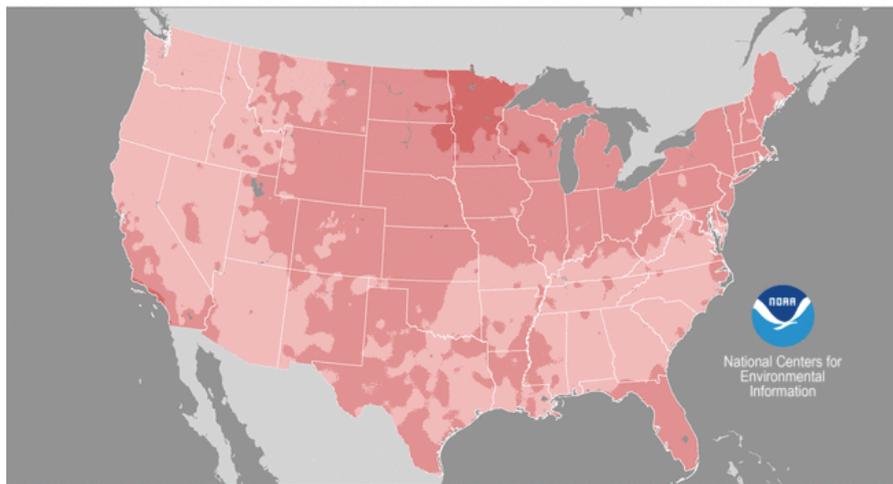
More normal winter weather has been the rule in January, and we even saw the return of the Polar Vortex into the eastern states, as a couple of very cold blasts reminded us that it is indeed winter.

As we move into February, we expect a much snowier pattern in

### MEAN TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES FROM AVERAGE

Autumn (September–November 2015)

Base Period: 20th Century



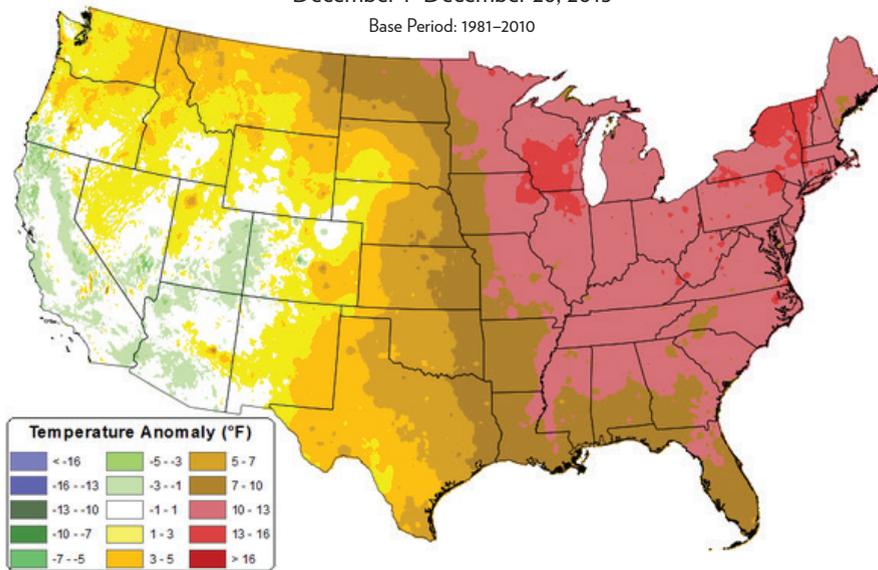


# WEATHER UPDATE

## DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

December 1–December 28, 2015

Base Period: 1981–2010



the East, with cold and warm air clashing to bring the contrasts ideal for a big northeaster. In fact, most of the strongest El Niño winters had at least one major snowstorm in the Northeast, so keep your snow shovels handy, as we may very well see two big storms this February.

Meanwhile, in the West, despite heavy January precipitation, California has still experienced below-normal precipitation in total over the past few years. We expect above-normal precipitation to continue into March and perhaps April, before the normal dry season begins.

With nearly all of the forecast models indicating that the current El Niño will turn into a La Niña by summer as Pacific Ocean temperatures drop compared to normal, next winter will likely turn back to below-normal precipitation, with the drought intensifying again.

As you peruse your seed catalogs, fear not: Overall, it looks like nearly all of the country will have a good spring planting season, with warming temperatures and sufficient rainfall.

–Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer’s Almanac meteorologist



# HUMOR ME

## GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC

### Cringe Alert!

#### YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.



● A man rushed into the doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

● Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. However, all of the records of their league were unfortunately destroyed in a fire.

Thus we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

● A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out, so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly

stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.



● Back in the 1800s, the Tates Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products. Because they already made cases for pocket watches, they decided to market compasses—which would also need cases—for the pioneers traveling west. It turned out that although their watches were of





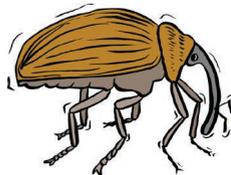
## DEAR GOD, LETTERS FROM SECOND GRADERS . . .

- Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now?
- I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions.
- I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family, and I can never do it.
- Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.
- Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this summer.
- If you give me a genie lamp like Aladdin, I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set.
- We read that Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea.
- Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.



## Cringe Alert! (continued)

the finest quality, their compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression “He who has a Tates is lost.”



- Two boll weevils grow up in South Carolina. One goes to Hollywood and becomes a famous actor. The other stays behind in the cotton fields and never amounts to much. The second one, naturally, becomes known as the lesser of two weevils.
- A woman has identical twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a

family in Egypt and is named Ahmal. The other goes to a family in Spain, and they name him Juan. Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes that she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, “They’re twins! If you’ve seen Juan, you’ve seen Ahmal.”

- A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He sidles up to the bar and announces: “I’m looking for the man who shot my paw.”

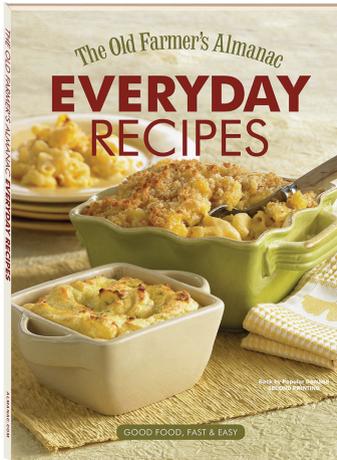


# Everyday Recipes

Is Back  
By Popular  
Demand!

**LEARN MORE**

\$9.99 | Printed in the USA



- Over 235 Classic Recipes
- 46 Recipe Contest Prizewinners
- Cooking Advice
- Timeless & Timesaving Tips
- Handy Kitchen Reference



Strata



Stuffed Red Peppers



Peachy Almond Cake



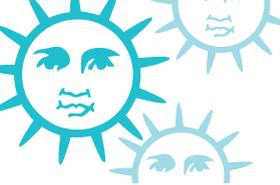
Perfect Macaroni and Cheese



Mild and Meaty Lasagna



Clam-Stuffed Mushrooms



# WHAT'S NEXT



## LIVING NATURALLY

New Uses for Old Stuff



## CALENDAR

Full Worm Moon, Penumbral Lunar Eclipse, History Riddle, Ides of March



## FOOD

Casserole Cookery



## ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map



## GARDENING

Grow Tasty Vegetables



## DO-IT-YOURSELF

Tips and Tricks for Fences

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