

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

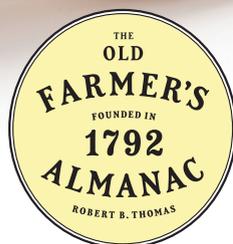
GOT THE ITCH FOR OATS?

PICNIC
RECIPES

LEARN THE
LANGUAGE
OF FLOWERS



JUNE 2017



*It wasn't just love **powering** us
through the outage and the storm,
it was preparation.*

*Times like this remind you
how **your life**, and how you
live, are worth **overprotecting**.*



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CALENDAR

Holidays, History, and Folklore for June





THE MONTH OF JUNE

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE



Moon View

June's full Moon, the **Full Strawberry Moon**, occurs on the 9th, at 9:10 A.M. EDT.

SEASONAL NOTE

In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs on June 21 at 12:24 A.M. EDT. At this time, the North Pole is most directly tilted toward the Sun. The Sun is highest above the celestial equator; rises and sets at its northernmost points for the year, on the Tropic of Cancer; and is highest in the sky at local noon for the year, making shadows short. The day also contains the most hours of sunlight for the year.



TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL STRAWBERRY MOON



FOLKLORE FUN

Cut your thistles before St. John [June 24], You will have two instead of one.

ALMANAC 225TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

The following excerpts are from the June Right-Hand Calendar Page of The 1793 [Old] Farmer's Almanac:

*In florid beauty
all appears,
And nymphs, a crown of
roses wear,
See the pigmy corn in
rows,
And farmers busy with
their hoes.*

- **June 1–2:** Pretty hot weather.
- **June 17:** Bat.Bun.hill [Battle of Bunker Hill], 1775
- **June 20:** Longest day.

• Hoe cabbages often; nothing will make them flourish better.



JUNE'S BIRTHSTONE: PEARL



- Mollusks, such as clams, oysters, and mussels, create pearls in response to irritants that get inside their shells. When this happens, a mollusk coats the substance with conchiolin (which acts like a glue) and layers of crystallized calcium carbonate, called nacre or mother-of-pearl. Only a few mollusks create pearls that are of high enough quality to use as jewelry. Natural pearls, found in the wild, can be various shapes; it is rare to find a smooth, round specimen. Colors include creamy white, pink, yellow, brown, green, purple, blue, silver, and black. High-quality pearls have luster with iridescence.

TAP TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
JUNE'S
BIRTHSTONE

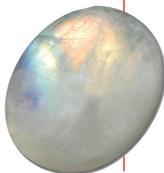
- Most pearls available on the market are “cultured,” meaning that the mollusks are farmed and implanted with nuclei to start pearl development.



- Pearls symbolize purity and innocence and are commonly worn by brides. The ancient Greeks believed them to be tears of the gods.

- Alternate birthstones for June include alexandrite (an extremely rare gem that turns from bluish green in

daylight to purplish red in incandescent light) and moonstone (a gem that shimmers like moonlight; the clearer the stone and the bluer its sheen, the more valuable).



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



The corner in Hartford where the first coin-operated pay phone was installed

JUNE 1: A PENNY (OR 10) FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

On this day in 1880, the first public telephone pay station in the United States began operation. It was installed in the New Haven office of the Connecticut Telephone Company. Callers paid a 10-cent fee to an attendant. In 1889, the first public phone to use coins was installed by the Southern New England Telephone Company in Hartford, Connecticut; the user inserted coins after the call was completed. In 1898, a prepay version was introduced in Chicago. In 1905, outdoor phones were installed with booths. (Superman didn't start using them until 1941.)

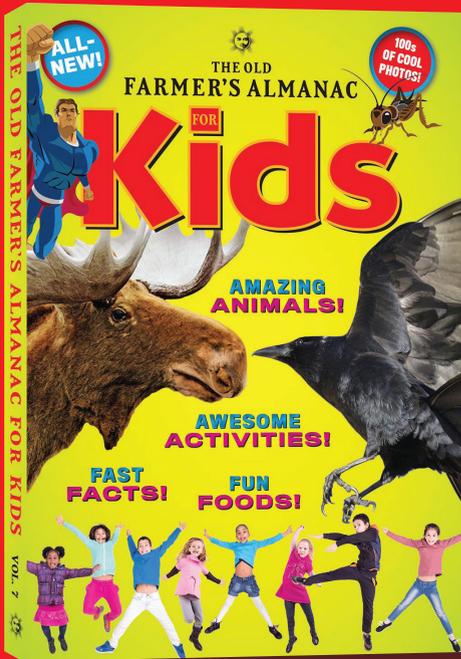
JUNE 4: AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

In the late 1800s, journalist Joseph Pulitzer became well known in the field for his business skill and passion for recognizing and training budding writers and artists. In his 1904 will, he established the Pulitzer Prizes to encourage excellence in the fields of journalism, letters and drama, music, and art. On this day in 1917, the first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded:



- Journalism—Reporting: Herbert Bayard Swope of *New York World*, for a series of articles entitled “Inside the German Empire”
- Journalism—Editorial Writing: *New York Tribune*, for an article on the first anniversary of the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania*
- History: His Excellency J. J. Jusserand (French ambassador to the United States) for *With Americans of Past and Present Days*
- Biography or Autobiography: Laura E. Richards and Maude Howe Elliott, assisted by Florence Howe Hall, for *Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910*

Although the first year offered four awards, today there are 21, including 14 in journalism, five in books, and one each in drama and music. Entrants send their submission according to specific requirements and pay a \$50 fee. Jurors appointed by the Pulitzer Board for each category review the entries (more than 2,400 submissions are received each year!) and pass along to the Board three nominations as finalists. The Board then reviews these nominations and either selects from among them, finds a substitute, or chooses not to give an award for that category. The Board’s recommendations are then given to Columbia University in New York City, which (as specified in Joseph Pulitzer’s will) presents the awards, usually at a luncheon, in spring. The award varies with category, but currently may include \$10,000 cash and a certificate, a gold medal, or a fellowship.



NEW!



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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These June 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: 16, 21
 Begin diet to gain weight: 2, 6, 28
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 3, 4, 30
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 15–17
 Have dental care: 1, 2, 28, 29
 Quit smoking: 16, 21
 Wean children: 16, 21

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 15–17
 End projects: 23
 Start projects: 25

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 10–12
 Go camping: 8, 9
 Go fishing: 1–9, 23–30
 Set posts or pour concrete: 10–12

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 18, 19
 Graft or pollinate: 24, 25
 Prune to encourage growth: 8, 26, 27
 Prune to discourage growth: 18, 19
 Plant aboveground crops: 5–7, 25
 Plant belowground crops: 15–17
 Harvest aboveground crops: 1, 2, 28, 29
 Harvest belowground crops: 20, 21

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 5–7
 Castrate animals: 13, 14
 Cut hay: 18, 19
 Set eggs: 3, 4, 11–13
 Slaughter livestock: 5–7
 Wean animals: 16, 21



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the June 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 JUNE

1 Virgo	9 Sagittarius	17 Pisces	25 Cancer
2 Virgo	10 Capricorn	18 Aries	26 Leo
3 Libra	11 Capricorn	19 Aries	27 Leo
4 Libra	12 Capricorn	20 Taurus	28 Virgo
5 Scorpio	13 Aquarius	21 Taurus	29 Virgo
6 Scorpio	14 Aquarius	22 Gemini	30 Libra
7 Scorpio	15 Pisces	23 Gemini	
8 Sagittarius	16 Pisces	24 Cancer	



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR JUNE
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

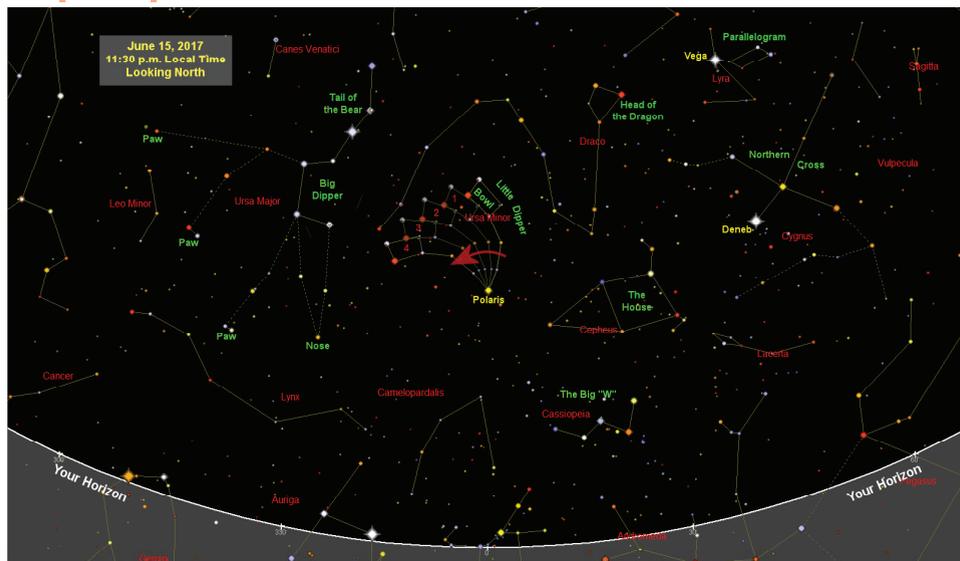
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion retrograde motion.

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 2017, Mercury will be retrograde from August 13–September 5, and December 3–23.

—Celeste Longacre



THE COSMIC CLOCK

Objects in the sky always appear to be moving. The Sun and Moon rise in the east and set in the west. Although less obvious, the stars and constellations also rise and set each day. Like clockwork, every celestial object marches across the sky from east to west and in 24 hours returns to its starting point. The fact that nearly all of this apparent motion is caused by the Earth rotating on its axis is one of humankind's greatest scientific discoveries.

Nowhere is this clocklike behavior more evident than in the northern sky. Take advantage of the pleasant June weather to watch the Cosmic Clock in action.

You'll need a dark location away from bright lights. Wait until at least 11:00 P.M.; the June sky isn't fully dark until then. Be prepared to stay up late and to devote at least 2 full hours to stargazing. Give your eyes at least 20 minutes to become dark-adapted, then look due north to find Polaris,

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
JUNE SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



the North Star, about halfway up the sky. It's the only bright star in the area.

Look above Polaris to follow a curving line of three dim stars until you reach a small, starry rectangle. You've just traced the handle and bowl of the Little Dipper, which appears to be standing on its handle. Note how the bowl is located directly above Polaris. If you think of Polaris as the center of a clock face, then the bowl is pointing straight up toward what would be the 12 on a common clock.

With the position of the Little Dipper firmly in mind—perhaps you can make a simple sketch—spend the next hour or so enjoying the other celestial sights. We'll get back to the Cosmic Clock shortly.

For now, look to left for the constellation Ursa Major, the Greater Bear, which appears to be standing on his nose in this view. The bear's rump and tail are better known as the Big Dipper, but from a dark location you can make out his entire body, from his legs and paws to the tip of his nose.

To the right and near the horizon, look for the Big W shape of Cassiopeia, the Queen, and above her, King Cepheus, in the shape of a rudimentary sketch of a house. Above them both is the head of Draco, the Dragon, whose body winds in an S-shape that curves around the Little Dipper. Look to the right of Draco for the perfect little parallelogram in the constellation Lyra, the Lyre. Below Lyra lies the Northern Cross, whose stars comprise the body of Cygnus, the Swan.

Assuming that an hour has passed, go back to our starting point, the Little Dipper. Note how the whole constellation has revolved slightly counterclockwise around Polaris and is now in our Cosmic Clock position 1 (what would be 11 on a common clock). Wait another hour, and the Little Dipper will have revolved farther to Cosmic Clock position 2 (10 on a common clock). This clocklike motion will continue throughout the night; the Sky Map shows the Little Dipper's position for 4 consecutive hours.

Importantly, it's not just the Little Dipper that appears to revolve around Polaris. In fact, the entire sky moves in the same circular path with Polaris at its center. This is all due to the Earth's rotation, which gives us our days, our nights, and our Cosmic Clock.

—Jeff DeTray



STAFF PICK FAVORITES!

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ALMANAC WEATHER ROCK

- If it's wet, it's raining.
- If it's white, it's snowing.
- If it's moving, it's windy.
- If there's a leaf on it, it's Autumn.
- If it's not visible, it's pretty darn foggy.
- If it's dry and still, just wait a minute, it's a mistake and will change soon.

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LIVING NATURALLY

**GOT THE
ITCH
FOR
OATS?**

USE THEM FOR SUMMER RELIEF

The humble oat (*Avena sativa*) has a long history of medicinal use that continues to this day.

Modern research suggests that oats or extracts of oats may reduce cholesterol, lower blood pressure, help prevent atherosclerosis, promote wound healing, and slow the proliferation of colon cancer cells.

For at least 4,000 years, healers have found oats especially valuable for skin care.

Check the labels on high-end soaps, lotions, and hair-care products. You'll be surprised at how many contain some form of oats. Dermatologists often recommend oatmeal-based creams and body washes for patients with eczema, psoriasis, and other skin conditions.

Researchers say that the anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory compounds found only in oats called avenanthramides are responsible for oats' ability to soothe itching and irritated skin.

NO DRUGSTORE NEEDED

You don't need an expensive drugstore oat preparation to ease the itch of

poison ivy, hives, swimmer's itch, dry "winter skin," or the sting of sunburn, diaper rash, and other minor skin irritations. Try a tepid oatmeal bath for quick, inexpensive relief.

The less processing the oats have had, the more avenanthramides the bath will deliver. If you have a grain grinder or blender, simply grind a cup of whole oats, available at a health food store, to a fine flour. But ordinary rolled oats—even instant oatmeal—will work, cooked or raw. (Use the unflavored kind, though.)

Pour the oat flour or rolled oats into the cut-off leg of an old pair of pantyhose or a tube sock, tie it loosely, and set it under the faucet as you draw a tepid bath. Let the oats soak for a while in the water, periodically squeezing the stocking-bag to release the liquid.

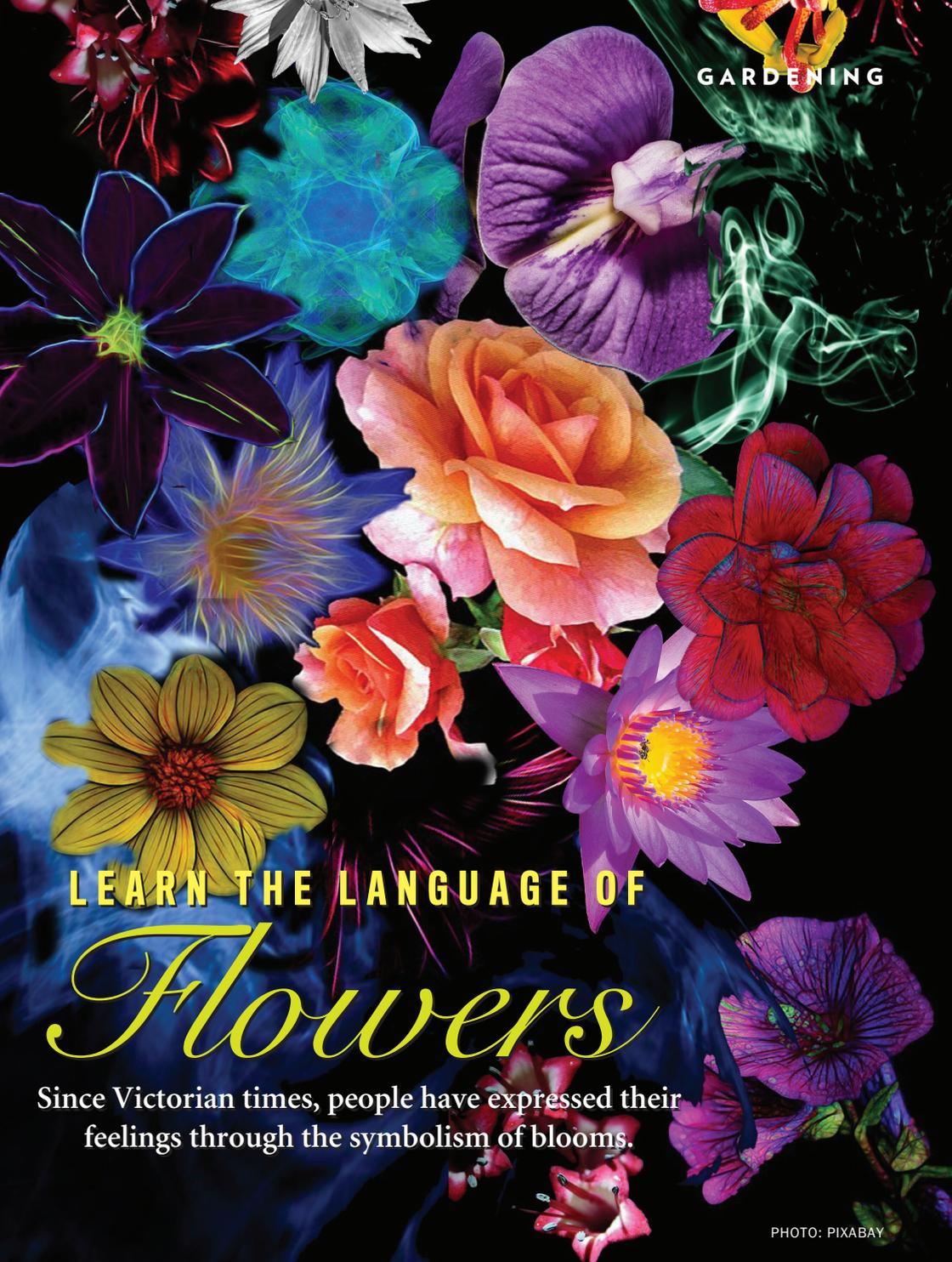
As you soak in the tub, rub the bag of oats over your skin like a bar of soap to increase the soothing effect.

The tub gets slippery during an oatmeal soak, so take special care when getting out.

Just pat yourself dry, and you'll be behind a protective, moisturizing barrier to continue the oats' skin-soothing work. —Margaret Boyles



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



GARDENING

LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF

Flowers

Since Victorian times, people have expressed their feelings through the symbolism of blooms.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Plants and flowers of the commonest kind can form a pleasing diary, because nothing which calls back to us the remembrance of a happy moment can be insignificant.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer (1749–1832)

The symbolic language of flowers has been recognized for centuries in many countries throughout Europe and Asia. Mythologies, folklore, sonnets, and plays of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Chinese are peppered with flower and plant symbolism—and for good reason. Nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with flowers.

Learning the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s. Nearly all Victorian homes had, alongside the Bible, guidebooks for deciphering the “language,” although definitions shifted depending on the source. Religious, literary, folkloric, and botanical publications were all used to inform meanings.

Examples of plants and



GARDENING

their associated human qualities during the Victorian era include bluebells and kindness, peonies and bashfulness, rosemary and remembrance, and tulips and passion.

Flowers provided an incredibly nuanced form of communication. Some plants, including roses, poppies, and lilies, could express a wide range of emotions based on their color.

Take, for instance, all of the different meanings attributed

to variously colored carnations: Pink meant “I’ll never forget you”; red said “my heart aches for you”; purple conveyed capriciousness; white was for the “the sweet and lovely”; and yellow expressed romantic rejection.

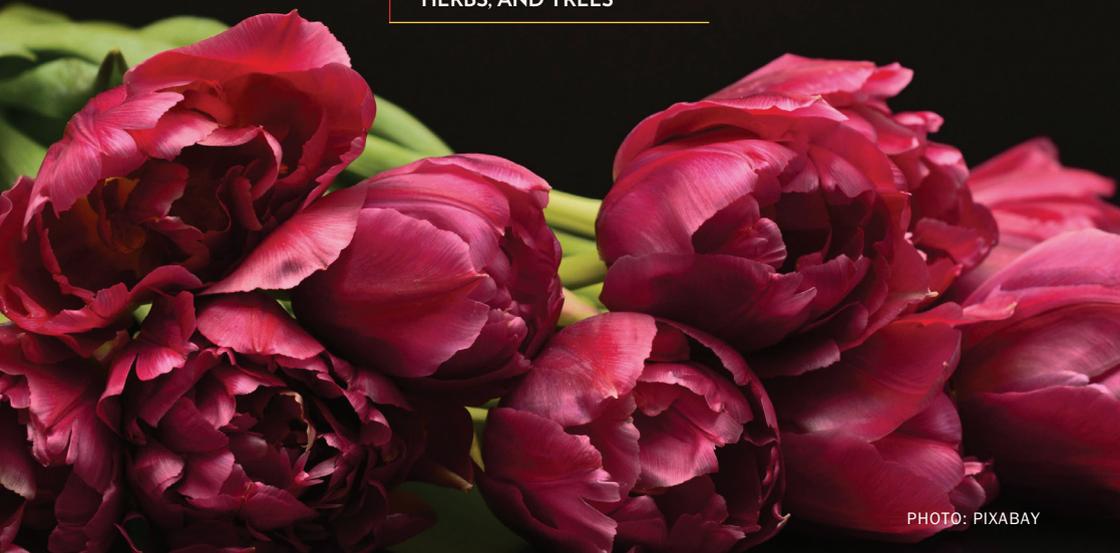
Likewise, a white violet meant “innocence,” while a purple violet said that the bouquet giver’s “thoughts were occupied with love.” A red rose was used to openly express feelings of love, while a red tulip was a

confession of love. The calla lily was interpreted to mean “magnificent beauty,” and a clover said “think of me.”

In a sort of silent dialogue, flowers could be used to answer “yes” or “no” questions, too. A “yes” answer came in the form of flowers handed over with the right hand; if the left hand was used, the answer was “no.”

Plants could also express aversive feelings, such as the “conceit” of pomegranate or the “bitterness” of aloe.

TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SYMBOLISM OF ROSES AND OTHER FLOWERS, HERBS, AND TREES



GARDENING

Similarly, if given a rose declaring “devotion” or an apple blossom showing “preference,” one might return to the suitor a yellow carnation to express “disdain.”

*H*ow flowers were presented and in what condition were important. If the flowers were given upside down, then the idea being conveyed was the opposite of what was traditionally meant. How the ribbon was tied said something, too: Tied to the left, the flowers’ symbolism applied to the giver, whereas tied to the right, the sentiment was in reference to the recipient. And, of course, a wilted bouquet delivered an obvious message!

The meanings and traditions associated with flowers have certainly changed over time, and different cultures assign varying ideas to the same species, but the fascination with “perfumed words” persists just the same.



TAP FOR A LIST OF
COMMON FLOWERS AND
THEIR MEANINGS

FLOWERS AND THEIR MEANINGS

For fun, devise a message for a friend or loved one using some of these blooms:

Amaryllis: pride

Anemone: forsaken

Apple blossom: preference

Bachelor's button: blessedness

Begonia: beware

Bittersweet: truth

Bluebell: humility

Candytuft: indifference

Coreopsis: always cheerful

Cyclamen: resignation and good-bye

Forget-me-not: true love memories

Gardenia: secret love

Magnolia: love of nature

Myrtle: good luck and love in a marriage

Rhododendron: danger

Rose: devotion

Sunflower: adoration

Violet: faithfulness

Wallflower: faithfulness in adversity

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Picnic Recipes

Summer starts with the solstice on June 21, and this means that it's picnic season! Here are a few picnic food ideas that are perfect for lazy summer days—from a refreshing drink to reimaged potato salad.



FOOD

 TAP FOR RECIPE

Strawberry Lemonade

PHOTO: AMALLIA EKA/SHUTTERSTOCK



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

STRAWBERRY LEMONADE

1 cup strawberries, hulled and sliced

1/2 cup sugar

1 cup fresh lemon juice

1-1/4 to 1-1/2 cups cold sparkling water

Put strawberries into a blender or food processor and purée. Add sugar to lemon juice and stir to blend. Add lemon juice mixture and sparkling water to puréed berries. Stir or process for a few seconds to blend, then pour into ice-filled glasses.

Makes 3 servings.

Curried Tuna Salad

 TAP FOR RECIPE



CURRIED TUNA SALAD

- 1 can (3 ounces) tuna, drained
- 1 small firm apple, peeled, cored, and diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped sweet onion
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1/4 cup jalapeño jelly (optional)
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 pita pockets

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

In a bowl, combine tuna, apples, onions, and celery.

In a separate bowl, stir together jalapeño jelly (if using), curry, and cumin and add to tuna. Mix well.

Warm pita pockets, cut open, and stuff with tuna mixture.

Makes 2 servings.

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Roasted Potato Salad

ROASTED POTATO SALAD

2 pounds small red potatoes, halved or quartered
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
several pinches dried thyme, divided
1 green bell pepper, cut into thin strips
1 medium sweet onion, cut into 1/2-inch slivers
1/2 red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
2 tablespoons white-wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Toss potatoes with 1 tablespoon olive oil and a pinch of thyme. Place in a single layer in a roasting pan and bake for 15 minutes.

In a bowl, combine green pepper and onion with the remaining tablespoon of oil and a pinch of thyme. Add to potatoes, stir, and continue baking, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes or until potatoes are browned and tender and onions begin to caramelize at the edges. Spoon into a large bowl and let cool slightly.

In a separate bowl, combine red pepper, vinegar, salt, pepper, and another pinch of thyme. Add to potato mixture and stir to incorporate.

Serve salad warm, cold, or at room temperature.

Makes 4 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Blue Ribbon Chocolate Chip Cookies



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

BLUE RIBBON CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) salted butter, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk-chocolate chips
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 300°F. (If you prefer crispy cookies, preheat to 350°F.) Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt.

In a separate bowl and using an electric mixer, combine sugars until blended. Add butter and mix well. Add eggs and vanilla and mix until creamy. Add flour mixture and chocolate chips, a little at a time each, and mix well using a wooden spoon.

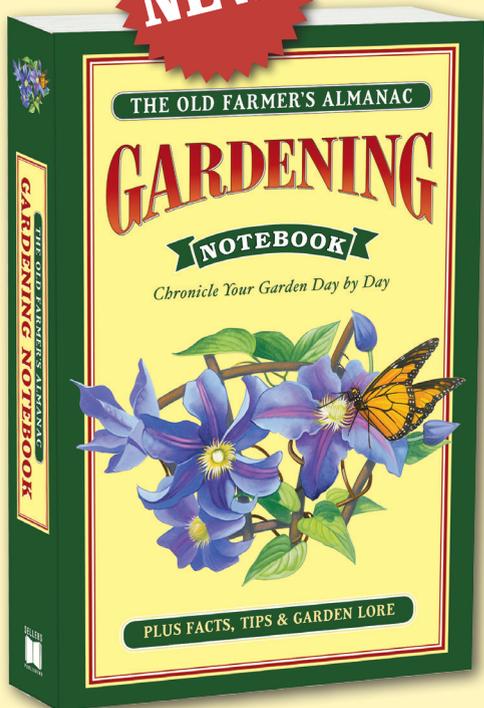
Drop dough onto prepared baking sheets by teaspoonfuls. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes for chewy cookies or 22 to 25 minutes for crispy cookies.

Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

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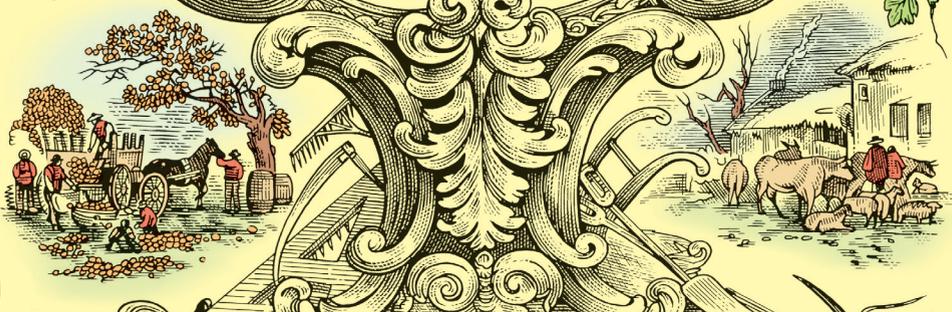
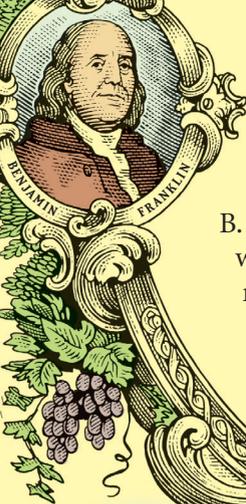
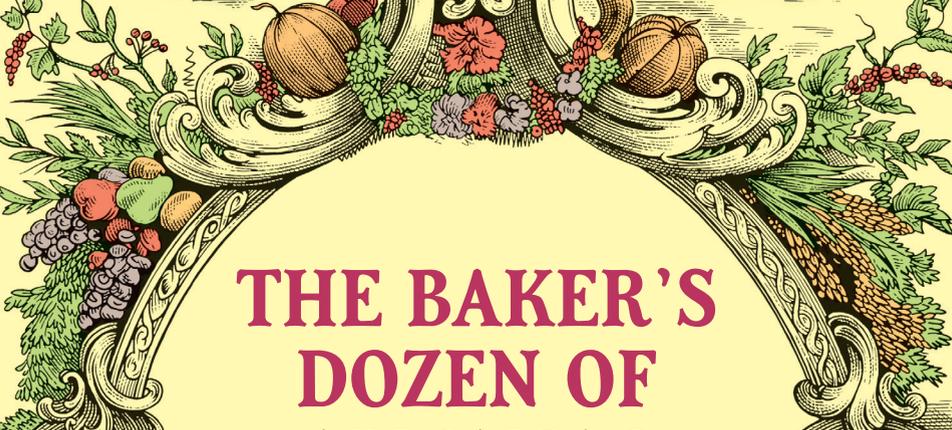
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ANNIVERSARY

THE BAKER'S DOZEN OF ALMANAC EDITORS

The founder of the Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, died on May 19, 1846, at age 80, while, it is said, proofing the pages of the next year's edition. Wisely, he had made arrangements for this eventuality with his publisher, Jenks & Palmer. So it was that **John H. Jenks** became the Almanac's

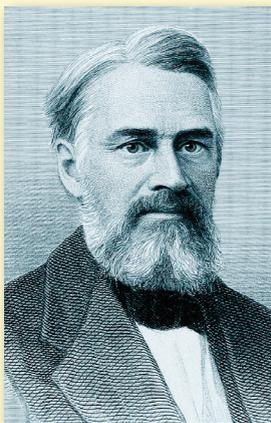


second editor. In the 1847 edition, Jenks pledged to “continue the Almanac, the oldest in the country, through the present century at least.”

Thomas’s name, Jenks added, “will always be connected with it in future as in past time.” (And so it has been.)

Jenks set about increasing the Almanac’s usefulness, with a tide table, math puzzles, and fresh ideas, such as that railroad tracks and telegraph wires drew off electricity from the clouds “to make thunder and lightning less frequent.”

In 1860, Jenks handed the editorship to **Charles Louis Flint**, a frequent contributor, Harvard grad, Massachusetts’s



first secretary of agriculture, cofounder of MIT, and a trivia buff. Flint increased the number of patent-medicine ads, thereby lifting the Almanac’s bottom line.

Nine years in, Flint gave up his role (the reason is unknown). Editorial responsibility fell to the publisher, Brewer & Tileston of Dorchester, Massachusetts. **John**

B. Tileston became the Almanac’s fourth editor. His tenure (1870–71) was unremarkable: Feature content consists largely of articles from past editions.

Loomis Joseph Campbell, a schoolteacher and textbook author, took over the editorial duties beginning with the 1872 Almanac. The content in the four editions that he oversaw contained advice on stock breeding, cover crops, plant pests, kitchen gardens, weather, and home remedies . . . but his editions came up short on humor.

Following publication of the 1876 edition, the Almanac was taken over by the Boston

**FLINT INCREASED THE NUMBER OF
PATENT-MEDICINE ADS, THEREBY LIFTING THE
ALMANAC’S BOTTOM LINE.**

ANNIVERSARY

publishing firm William Ware & Co. A son of the owner, **Robert Ware**, became the sixth editor. In the 1892 edition, he noted the Almanac's centennial with a feature on Robert B. Thomas.

At the turn of the 20th century, Ware passed editorship to



his brother **Horace**, a lawyer, banker, and Massachusetts legislator. His 1908 edition reports

on experimental milking machines and advises taking a cracker, buttered and sprinkled with cayenne pepper, after dinner to induce sleep.

Horace Ware passed away in 1919, and the Almanac was acquired by **Frank B. Newton**, another Boston lawyer. Newton reached out to advertisers, securing brands such as King Arthur Flour. In several of his 13 editions, Newton cautions against “work-shirkers and trouble-makers whose principal business seems to be the minding of other people’s business.”

The ninth editor was Boston advertising man and World War I combat

veteran **Carroll Swan**. He set a record with the 1933 edition (his first), declaring it “the largest Almanac ever published—96 pages.”

Upon Swan’s passing in 1935 (after completion of that year’s edition), his family licensed the Almanac to Boston publisher Little Brown & Co., which appointed as the 10th editor literary figure **Roger Scaife**. This arrangement ushered in the only period in the Almanac’s history in which its circulation declined precipitously (to about 88,000—from a high of about 225,000). The nadir of this calamitous trend was the 1938 edition, infamously known for giving temperature

HORACE’S 1908 EDITION ADVISED TAKING A CRACKER, BUTTERED AND SPRINKLED WITH CAYENNE PEPPER, AFTER DINNER TO INDUCE SLEEP.

ANNIVERSARY

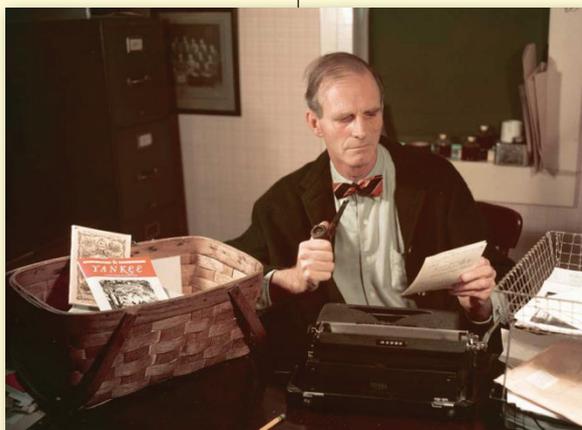
averages in lieu of weather forecasts. Scaife reinstated actual weather forecasts in the 1939 and '40 editions, but it was too late: Little Brown & Co. was looking for a way out. Conveniently, a young man in Dublin, New Hampshire, named

expand. Writing later of his meeting with the Little Brown & Co. people, Sagendorph recalled: "After more than one double martini, I found myself the new owner and new editor of the Almanac."

Sagendorph, who was devoted to

it had been under Robert B. Thomas. He made the content more useful and doubled down on a pleasant degree of humor, with wit, wacky stories, and fun facts. Over his 30 years as the 11th editor, Sagendorph expanded the weather predictions to cover the continental United States. He also introduced rhyme to the italicized forecasts (the "doggerel") on the Calendar Pages. These and other prognostications established the Almanac's historic and traditional 80 percent accuracy rate.

Under Sagendorph, circulation was healthy again, profits were good, and every edition seemed



Robb Sagendorph, who had recently launched *Yankee* magazine, wanted to

tradition, immediately reestablished the Almanac's editorial style to be more like

**"AFTER MORE THAN ONE DOUBLE
MARTINI, I FOUND MYSELF THE NEW OWNER
AND NEW EDITOR OF THE ALMANAC."**

ANNIVERSARY

to generate more publicity nationwide. Sagendorph seemed born to the role he had acquired, reviving and reinvigorating the American cultural icon. Thus it was fitting, and sad, when he died at age 70 in

been preparing his nephew, **Judson Hale**, to assume the role and responsibilities of the 12th editor. Uniquely gifted with imagination, curiosity, and almanacmanship, Hale guided the Almanac into new

page size, and engaged more writers and experts to contribute fun, factual, folklorish, and famously quirky articles. With the 1988 edition, he initiated a “Trends” section designed to predict consumer interests and record them for future generations. The “little yellow book” enjoyed immense popularity, trust, and affection from folks in all walks of life. In 2000, Hale became editor in chief in order to hire the 13th editor.

She is me, **Janice Stillman**, dear reader. My job is not finished, so my story is incomplete, but it has been my pleasure to introduce you to my predecessors.

*—adapted by Janice Stillman from
The Best of The Old Farmer’s
Almanac by Judson D. Hale Sr.*



1970 on that most American holiday—July 4.

As the custodian of the Almanac legacy, Sagendorph had for decades

territory, literally: The weather forecast coverage expanded to include Alaska, Hawaii, and most of Canada. He added pages, increased the

**UNIQUELY GIFTED WITH IMAGINATION, CURIOSITY,
AND ALMANACMANSHIP, HALE GUIDED THE
ALMANAC INTO NEW TERRITORY, LITERALLY.**



HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

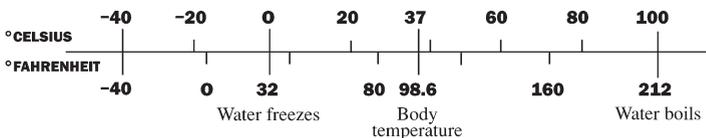
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

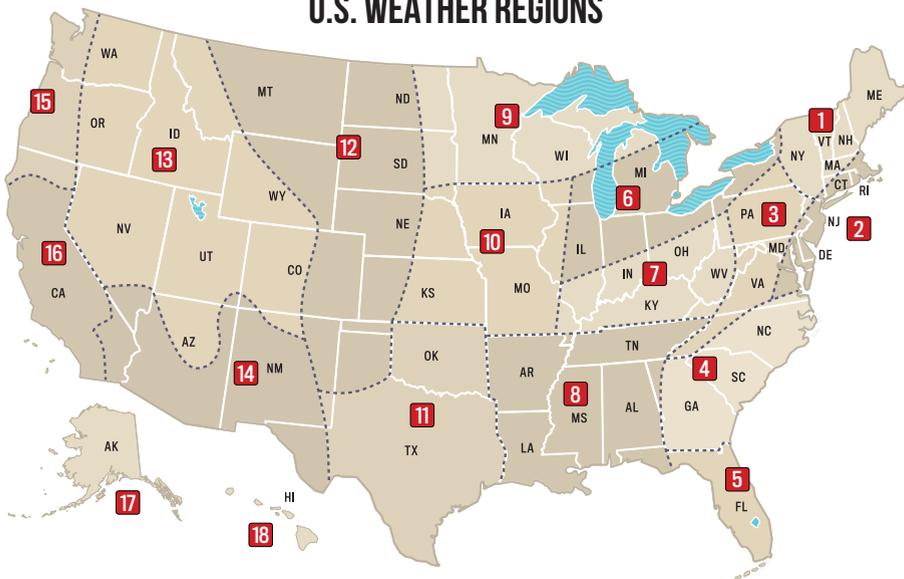
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



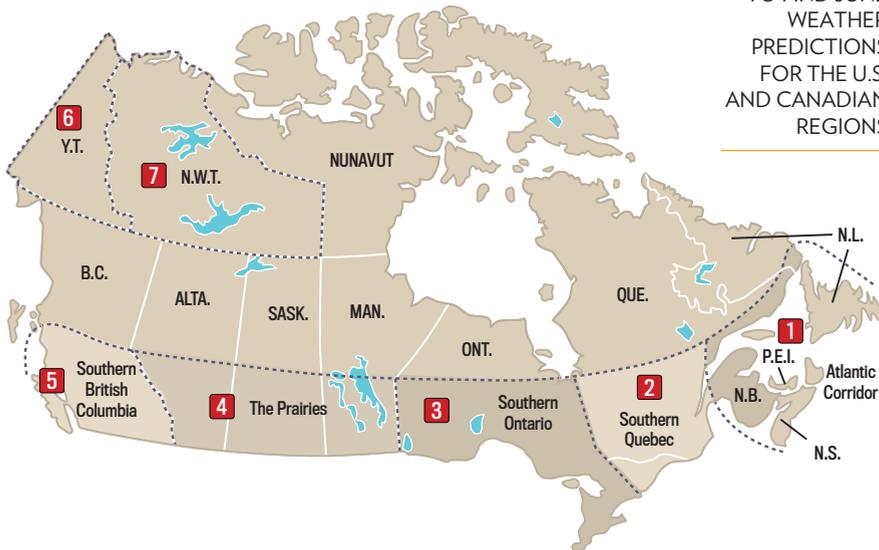


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





HURRICANE HAVOC

With the start of hurricane season upon us, let's look back on some of the most notable hurricanes that have hit the United States. This month, we'll look at five from the first half of the 20th century; in coming months, we'll look at more recent major hurricanes. It was not until 1953 that Atlantic/Gulf Hurricanes were given women's names—with men's names added in 1979—so the earlier storms are known by the region they most affected.

THE GALVESTON HURRICANE OF 1900 was the deadliest natural disaster to ever strike the United States, killing at least 8,000 and perhaps as many as 12,000 people. Its complete story is told in Erik Larson's 1999 best-selling book *Isaac's Storm*, which I highly recommend. The storm reached Cuba as a tropical storm on September 3, moved into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico on September 5, and rapidly intensified until it hit the Texas coast near Galveston as a Category 4 hurri-



cane with winds of 145 miles per hour on September 8.

Storm tides of 8 to 15 feet inundated Galveston Island, which had little protection from high water, causing most of the storm's deaths and damage. Although hurricane warnings were issued, the lack of modern technology such as satellites and radar meant that there was not much advance notice for Galveston residents, and many did not heed the warnings that were issued, preferring instead to watch the huge waves.

The devastation caused in Galveston was perhaps the most important reason that the citizens of Harris County, believing that an inland port would better serve the region, approved creation of the modern port of Houston in 1909, thus starting

Houston on its path to becoming one of the United States' largest cities.

THE GREAT MIAMI HURRICANE OF 1926 destroyed much of its namesake city when it struck as a Category 4 hurricane in 1926. It killed about 400 people and caused \$80 million in damages at the time, but if an identical storm were to hit the same region today, costs would exceed \$180 billion—more than double those from Katrina, the costliest U.S. hurricane to date.

As with the Galveston Hurricane, warnings provided little advance notice when they were issued at midnight, only hours before the storm's landfall in the morning hours.

The storm's eye passed directly over Miami Beach and downtown Miami, producing the highest sustained winds ever recorded in the United States at the time, 150 mph. Many



TAP FOR MORE ON ALL THINGS WEATHER



FLORIDA KEYS
HURRICANE
MASS BURIAL

casualties resulted as people who believed that the storm had ended ventured outdoors during the half-hour lull as the eye passed overhead. They were suddenly trapped and exposed to the eastern half of the hurricane shortly thereafter.

The destruction the storm brought to Florida ended the state's 1920s land boom and brought the state an early start to the Great Depression.

THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE HURRICANE OF 1928 struck Puerto Rico as a Category 5 hurricane on September 13, causing over 300 deaths and leaving more than 500,000 people homeless. The storm weakened slightly before making landfall near West Palm Beach, Florida, on September 16, bringing winds of 145 mph and de-

stroying more than 1,700 homes.

The hurricane's impact was most severe around Lake Okeechobee, where the storm surge caused water to pour out of the southern part of the lake, with 10- to 20-foot-high inland waves sweeping away thousands of buildings and drowning at least 2,500 people, making this the second deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

THE GREAT FLORIDA KEYS LABOR DAY HURRICANE OF 1935 was the third strongest Atlantic hurricane on record and the most intense to ever make landfall in the United States, with a central pressure of 26.34 inches at landfall. The storm formed to the east of the Bahamas on August 29, 1935, became a hurricane on September 1, and then underwent rapid intensification before it struck the Florida Keys on September 2 as a Category



TAP FOR MORE ON HURRICANES



WEATHER UPDATE

5 storm—one of only three to hit the United States in the 20th century (the other two being hurricanes Camille in 1969 and Andrew in 1992).

The combination of 185-mph winds and high tides was responsible for 408 deaths in the Florida Keys, primarily among World War I veterans working in the area. The storm also destroyed the railway line that was the main transportation route connecting the Keys to mainland Florida.

THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE AND LONG ISLAND EXPRESS OF 1938

was only the third hurricane to strike New England since 1635. This 20th-century event was probably the most destructive hurricane in New England history, rivaled or eclipsed in landfall intensity only by the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635.

The weaker western side of the storm brought sustained tropical storm-force winds, high waves, and storm surges along the New Jersey coast, destroying much of the Atlantic City boardwalk. In New York City, Battery Park recorded sustained winds of 70 mph, with 120-mph winds at the top of the Empire State Building.

The storm made landfall on September 21 at Bellport on Long Island as a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds of 120 mph,



NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE WATER LEVELS AT THE OLD MARKET HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RI

gusts to 150 mph, and 25- to 35-foot waves. It made a second landfall between Bridgeport and New Haven, Connecticut, with sustained winds of 115 mph and 18- to 25-foot tides from New London east to Cape Cod.

The hurricane was estimated to have killed 682 people, damaged or destroyed over 57,000 homes, and devastated the forests of the Northeast, knocking down 2 billion trees across New York and New England.

—Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer’s Almanac meteorologist



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC

What Kids Say About the Weather

True quotes from St. Louis schoolkids . . .



- *When lightning goes through them, clouds start making sounds. So would anybody.*
- *Rain is saved up in cloud banks.*
- *Water vapor gets huddled and snuggled together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.*
- *Humidity is the experience of looking for air and finding rain.*
- *The main value of tornadoes is yet to be discovered.*
- *The difference between air and*

water is that air can be made wetter, but water can not.

- *The water cycle is a cycle made out of water that you can pedal along on. I don't believe it has been invented yet.*
- *A blizzard is when it snows sideways.*
- *Some oxygen molecules make rain, while others help fires to burn. Sometimes, it is brother against brother.*
- *Listening to meteorologists is one of the chief by-products of bad weather.*
- *It is so hot in some parts of the*





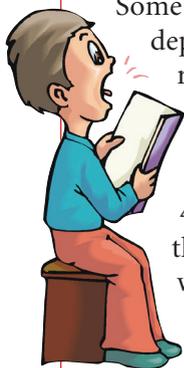
world that the inhabitants there have to live somewhere else.

- The wind is like air, only pushier.
- *In order to have different seasons, we had to get Earth tilted over on its axis. But it has been worth it.*
- Meteorologists look something like people.
- *You can listen to thunder after lightning and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.*

WORDS TO LOSE BY

Some time ago, the English department at San Jose State ran a contest to find the worst possible opening sentence for a novel. From among more than 4,000 entries, they deemed the following to be the winner:

“The lovely woman-child Kaa was mercilessly chained to the cruel post of the warrior-chief Beast, with his barbarian tribe now stacking wood at her nubile feet, when the strong, clear voice of the poetic and heroic Handsomas roared, “Flick your Bic, crisp the chick, and you’ll feel my steel through your last meal.”



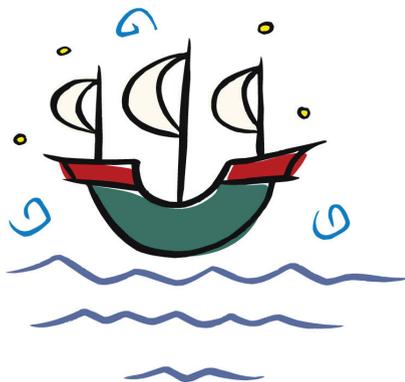
Apparently not content with but one dose of decrepitude, the judges also selected a runner-up:

“I had left the barbecue quite hurriedly with sketchy directions to the ladies’ room ‘out back,’ and now faced a black cow wearing one red earring standing beneath an ill windmill, bladeless and bent from years of prevailing winds, as she watched me with bovine detachment, my heels sunk arch-deep into the mire . . . I hate the country!”

19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE: MOST CERTAINLY

Having run away from school to go to sea, a boy was admonished by his friends that death would be perpetually staring him in the face.

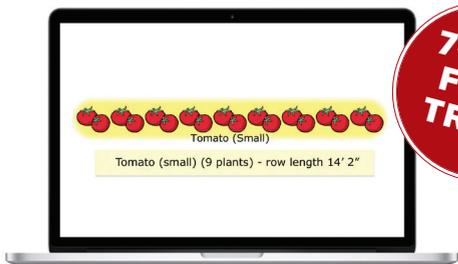
“Most certainly,” the boy replied, “for, as you know, every ship is provided with shrouds.”



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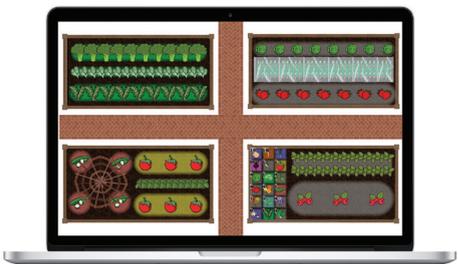


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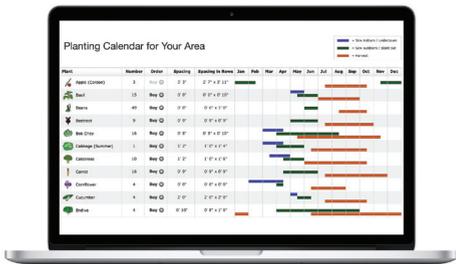


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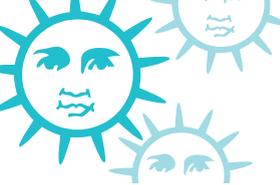
PLUS:

- keeps track of your planting to ensure proper rotation every year
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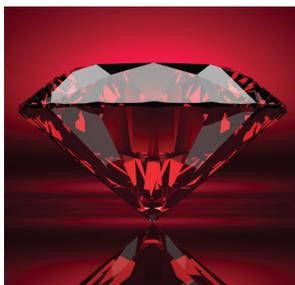


WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

When and how to water vegetables



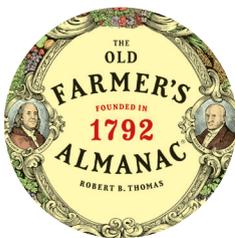
CALENDAR

Full Buck Moon, birthstone ruby, Erie Canal, 1793 Almanac tidbits



LIVING NATURALLY

Soup stocks from kitchen scraps



ANNIVERSARY

"The Best Advice Ever"

FOOD

Farmers' market recipes for summer's fresh bounty



ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map



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 July *EXTRA!*

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