

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

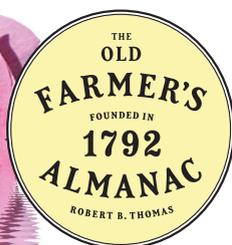
HAPPINESS IS
HYDRANGEAS

HANG IT UP—
LAUNDRY,
THAT IS

STRAWBERRY
RECIPES

THE RACE
BETWEEN
THE HORSE
AND THE PIG

JUNE 2018





FEATURES

GARDENING

Happiness Is Hydrangeas

FOOD

Strawberry Recipes

LIVING NATURALLY

Hang It Up—Laundry, That Is

AMUSEMENT

The Extraordinary Race Between the Horse and the Pig



WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

June U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

June Birthdays, Holidays, History, and More

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for June

WIT

Humor Me
Grins and groans from the Almanac

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our July issue!



THE MONTH OF JUNE

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Holiday Happenings:

June 14: Flag Day

June 17: Father's Day

June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)



ONE DAY TO SAVE THE WORLD

In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly established World Environment Day to raise environmental awareness across the globe. Beginning in 1974, the observance has been held annually on June 5, a

date that commemorates the start of the landmark 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in Stockholm, Sweden. Each year, World Environment Day focuses on a particularly pressing environmental issue, such as wildlife conservation, climate change, or our vital connection to nature. For official celebrations, a different host country is chosen yearly. In addition, many other countries also hold events, such as bicycle parades and tree planting.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901–78)

MOON WATCH

Last Quarter:

June 6, at 2:32 P.M. EDT

New Moon:

June 13, at 3:43 P.M. EDT

First Quarter:

June 20, at 6:51 A.M. EDT

Full Strawberry Moon: June 28, at 12:53 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT JUNE'S FULL MOON

ANNUAL EVENT

In the Northern Hemisphere, summer begins on June 21 at 6:07 a.m. EDT.

In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins at this time.

FASCINATING FIRSTS

Which event occurred on June 6, 1829?

- a. Grover Cleveland became the first U.S. president to marry in the White House.
- b. The poinsettia debuted in the United States at the first Pennsylvania Horticulture Society exhibition.
- c. The first roller coaster in the United States built solely for amusement began operation at Coney Island, New York.
- d. Jean Francois Gravelet, aka Charles Blondin, became the first person to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope.



Answer: b. (a: June 2, 1886; c: June 16, 1884; d: June 30, 1859)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



15 YEARS AGO (2003)

- June 11:** Breanna Yde (American actress)
June 14: Taylor Hatala (Canadian dancer)

25 YEARS AGO (1993)

- June 7:** Jordan Fry (American actor)
June 26: Ariana Grande (American singer/actress)

50 YEARS AGO (1968)

- June 10:** Mike Dopud (Canadian actor)
June 10: Jim Shea (American Olympic gold medalist)

75 YEARS AGO (1943)

- June 4:** Joyce Meyer (American writer)
June 17: James Ludlow Elliot (American astronomer)
June 17: Barry Manilow (American singer)
June 30: Florence Ballard (American singer)

100 YEARS AGO (1918)

- June 8:** Robert Preston (American actor)



150 YEARS AGO (1868)

- June 6:** Capt. Robert Falcon Scott (British naval officer/Antarctic explorer)

250 YEARS AGO (1768)

- June 30:** Elizabeth Monroe (U.S. First Lady)



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*

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 14, 15

Brew: 23, 24

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 5–7

Demolish: 23, 24

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 8, 9

End projects: 12

Lay shingles: 16, 17

Make jams/jellies: 5–7

Paint: 10, 11, 20–22

Start projects: 14

Wash floors: 5–7

Wash windows: 8, 9



PERSONAL

- Advertise to sell: 23, 24
- Ask for a loan: 7, 11
- Begin diet to gain weight: 19, 24
- Begin diet to lose weight: 7, 11
- Buy a home: 19, 24
- Color hair: 10, 11
- Cut hair to discourage growth: 5–7
- Cut hair to encourage growth: 20–22
- Get married: 20–22
- Have dental care: 18, 19
- Move (house/household): 12, 13
- Perm hair: 3, 4
- Quit smoking: 7, 11
- Straighten hair: 25, 26
- Travel for pleasure: 16, 17
- Wean children: 7, 11

OUTDOORS

- Begin logging: 1, 2, 27–29
- Go camping: 25, 26
- Go fishing: 13–28
- Set posts or pour concrete: 1, 2, 27–29

IN THE GARDEN

- Destroy pests and weeds: 8, 9
- Graft or pollinate: 14, 15
- Harvest aboveground crops: 18, 19
- Harvest belowground crops: 10, 11
- Mow to decrease growth: 8, 9
- Mow to increase growth: 23, 24
- Pick fruit: 18, 19
- Plant aboveground crops: 14, 15, 23, 24
- Plant belowground crops: 5–7
- Prune to discourage growth: 8, 9
- Prune to encourage growth: 16, 17

ON THE FARM

- Breed animals: 23, 24
- Castrate animals: 3, 4, 30
- Cut hay: 8, 9
- Purchase animals: 14, 15
- Set eggs: 2, 3, 21, 22, 29, 30
- Slaughter livestock: 23, 24
- Wean animals: 7, 11



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

+ TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

▶ **APP EXTRA!**
TAP FOR
JUNE MOON
PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

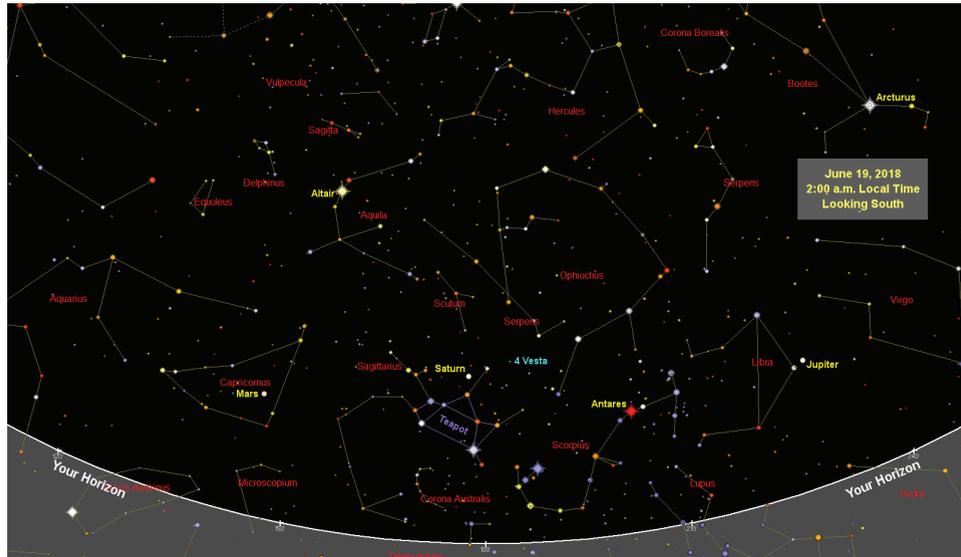
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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 2018 to come, Mercury will be retrograde during July 26–August 19 and November 17–December 6.

—Celeste Longacre



A CELESTIAL STRING OF PEARLS

The June sky brings to mind a romantic stanza by German poet Christian Johann Heinrich Heine (1797–1856) in “Of Pearls and Stars”:

*The pearly treasures of the sea,
The lights that spatter heaven above,
More precious than these wonders are
My heart-of-hearts filled with your love.*

The planets of our solar system always appear to be moving among the stars. In fact, our word “planet” is derived from the Greek word for “wanderer.” The earliest records of ancient cultures demonstrate their recognition that while most of the lights in the night sky (the stars) always remained in fixed positions, a few “stars” appeared to wander. Five such “wanderers” were known to the ancients: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. These are the “naked-eye planets,” those that can be seen without any optical aid.

APP EXTRA!
TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
JUNE SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!
TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



From our Earthly point of view, the apparent movements of the planets are surprisingly complex. All of them, including Earth, orbit (revolve around) the Sun, each at a different rate. Mercury takes only 88 days to make a trip around the Sun; a Mercurian year lasts just 88 days. The orbital period of the Earth, of course, is 365 days. When we get to Saturn, its year lasts 10,759 days—more than 29 of our years.

One result of these differing orbital periods is that each planet appears to move against the starry background at a different speed, and sometimes in a different direction. Mercury moves rapidly, Saturn quite slowly, the others somewhere in between.

Despite their different orbital speeds, every so often the movements of the planets bring them into interesting alignments. Sometimes, two or more planets appear quite near each other in the sky, a conjunction. In June 2018, a very different alignment occurs: Three bright planets, plus a bright star, are stretched like a long string of pearls across the sky.

The brightest of the gems is Jupiter, the King of Planets, on the far right of this month's map. Jupiter reached its brightest for 2018 a few weeks ago and is now slowly fading. However, it remains quite brilliant all through June.

Moving to the left, we encounter not a planet but the bright star Antares, the heart of the constellation Scorpius the Scorpion. The star's name means "equal to Ares [Mars]." Antares has an orangish or reddish hue, very similar to the coloration of the planet Mars, which is shown on the far left of our map. Compare the two and see if you think that Antares' color is indeed "equal to Mars."

Near the center of the map is our third pearl, the planet Saturn, named for Saturnus, the Roman god of agriculture. Whereas Jupiter gradually dims throughout June, Saturn grows slowly brighter.

On the left lies Mars, the Red Planet. Although nearly the same color as the star Antares, Mars is much brighter and grows steadily more brilliant throughout June.

If you find yourself in a truly dark location, look for a fifth pearl, the minor planet 4 Vesta, not far from Saturn and near the center of the sky map. Minor planets are bits of material left over from the formation of the solar system. The numeral "4" in its name indicates that Vesta was the fourth minor planet to be discovered, in 1807. Vesta is 326 miles in diameter and the brightest known minor planet, of which several hundred thousand have so far been discovered. —*Jeff DeTray*



GARDENING

Happiness Is Hydrangeas

To enjoy blissful blooms, know the basics of these beauties.

PHOTO: PIXABAY



'Limelight' panicle hydrangea

Everyone loves hydrangeas! Unrivaled in the shrub world for beautiful flowers, they are easy to cultivate, tolerate almost any soil, and produce abundant blooms.

Varieties abound (every year, it seems, breeders present us with more options!), and gardeners' expectations of bloom size and color are boundless. To know how *your* hydrangea will grow, pay attention to the types, defined here. When you know what to expect, delights will be magnified.

GROUP 1:

Plants that bloom on new growth (this year's stems)

The following hydrangeas, which form their buds in early summer on new growth, will flower reliably each year, requiring no special care.

TYPE: PANICLE HYDRANGEA

(*Hydrangea paniculata*) Named for its fat, cone-shape flower heads, this big, gracefully arching shrub is hardy to Zone 3. This is a good choice for a beginner: Simply plant it in full sun, step back, and watch it prosper. The 12- to 18-inch-long clusters of flowers open white, then age beautifully to various shades of warm Victorian rose. The most common cultivar, *H.*

paniculata 'Grandiflora', or P. G. ("PeeGee"), after its initials, can be grown both as a 10- to 15-foot shrub and as a small tree. Although 'Grandiflora' is a big, old-fashioned, floppy variety, 'Tardiva', 'White Moth', and 'Pee Wee' fit the scale of small gardens. 'Limelight' produces cool-green flowers and grows to a height of 6 to 8 feet.

TYPE: SMOOTH HYDRANGEA

(*H. arborescens*) The original "snowball" (a reference to its flowers) is native to the United States and one of the best hydrangeas for cold climates, flowering

reliably in Zone 3. The flowers of this species look like oversize white pom-poms. Look for the cultivars *H. arborescens* ‘Grandiflora’ and ‘Annabelle’, which produce many large (up to 14 inches across), tight, symmetrical blooms in late summer. Although the plant puts on a grand show, a rain shower can cause it to flop under the weight of its blossoms.

GROUP 2:

Plants that bloom on old growth (last year’s stems)
If you live in Zone 8 or warmer, choose plants from this group. Gardeners in cool climate zones will find many of them a challenge, because they set flower buds in the fall. Although hardy to Zones 4 and 5, the buds are prone to damage by an early frost in fall, a late frost in spring, or excessively cold

temperatures when dormant in winter. This, along with untimely pruning, can result in inconsistent flowering or no flowering at all.

TYPE: OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

(H. quercifolia)
A tough native, this graceful plant is a great addition to any landscape. Even though it is native to the Southeast, it exhibits incredible bud hardiness and thrives in Zone 5. As the name implies, it has large, coarse leaves, shaped like those of an oak tree, which are noted for their spectacular fall colors ranging from red to bronze and purplish burgundy. The flower heads are cone-shaped and open white, fade to subtle shades of rose pink, and finally turn a rich brown that lasts all winter. You can expect exceptional fall color from ‘Snow Queen’, ‘Snow Flake’, and ‘Alice’.

‘Snow Queen’
oakleaf hydrangea



'Bluebird' mountain hydrangea

**TYPE: BIGLEAF
HYDRANGEA**

(*H. macrophylla*)

This showy and popular species can be categorized based on flower shapes: either mopheads (or Hortensias) or lacecaps. Mopheads are hardy to Zone 6 and bear large, dense, pompom-type flower clusters composed mainly of sterile flowers. This group has the ability to change flower color based on soil pH. Lacecaps form flattened, round flower heads composed of an intricate combination of tiny, tight, fertile buds surrounded by a bracelet

of showy sterile ones. The result is an airy, elegant look. Lacecaps are suitable for Zones 5 to 9. One cultivar that blooms on old wood as well as new is 'All Summer Beauty'. If its buds are winter-killed, the plant will form new ones in spring and still bloom.

**TYPE: MOUNTAIN
HYDRANGEA**

(*H. serrata*)

Considered by some botanists to be a variety of *H. macrophylla* and by others a distinct species, this type tends to be a small, fine-stem plant, primarily

a lacecap, with leaves that exhibit a sawlike margin. Examples are 'Bluebird' and 'Diadem'. In acidic soil, 'Preziosa' produces blossoms of an extraordinary blend of pale shades of blue, mauve, violet, and green.

**TYPE: CLIMBING
HYDRANGEA**

(*H. anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*)

There are few plants that create as much excitement as a climbing hydrangea in full bloom. A strong deciduous vine, it blooms from late June to early July, exhibiting flat, lacy, creamy-white

GARDENING

flowers 6 to 10 inches across, which look like fine antique lace against its thick glossy leaves. It is reliably hardy in Zones 4 to 7.

GROWING TIPS

Most hydrangeas thrive in rich, porous, somewhat moist soils. They prefer full sun in the morning, with some afternoon shade; however, many will also grow and bloom in partial shade. This is especially true for the bigleaf hydrangeas.

For the first year or two after planting and during any drought, be sure that hydrangeas get plenty of water. Leaves will wilt if the soil is too dry.

When growing *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* varieties in Zones 4 and 5, do not prune unless absolutely necessary, and then do so immediately after blooming. Otherwise, remove only dead stems in the spring.

In the fall, cover plants to a depth of at least 18 inches with bark mulch, leaves, pine needles, or straw. If at all possible, cover the entire plant, tip included, by making cages out of snow fencing or chicken wire and loosely filling the cages with leaves. (Do not use maple leaves for fill, as they tend to mat when wet and can suffocate the plant.)

—Betty Earl



Climbing hydrangea

+ TAP FOR "THE pH OF PINK AND BLUE"

THE PH OF PINK AND BLUE

The color of some *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* cultivars will vary according to soil pH. Blues are best grown in acidic soil; pinks and reds do best in alkaline or neutral soil. The whites stay white (color can never be changed) and usually prefer the same conditions as the pinks and reds. But the relationship between color and pH is more complex than just numbers on a scale. It is the availability of aluminum ions—and the degree to which a particular cultivar can absorb them—that influences color.

It is possible to change colors, but not instantaneously. Color correction takes weeks—even months—for the desired changes. It is easier to change blue flowers to pink than to change pink flowers to blue, and some cultivars are more prone to color variability than others.

Have your soil tested for pH, then check with your local nursery for the recommended amount of aluminum sulfate and directions. Here are a few guidelines to follow, once you've given a plant time to recover from the shock of its original planting and if it is at least 2 years old:

TO GO BLUE

To increase acidity (for deeper-blue flowers): Apply a solution of 1/4 ounce aluminum sulfate per gallon of water three times per year. Soak the ground with the solution after the plant starts growing in the spring and repeat twice at 3- to 4-week intervals. Once a year, in the spring, apply 25-5-30 fertilizer, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

TO GO PINK

To increase alkalinity (for changing blue flowers to pink): In the spring or fall, spread ground limestone (dolomitic lime) at a ratio of 4 pounds per 100 square feet and water it well. (Excessive alkalinity will cause chlorosis, or yellow leaves.) In the spring or fall, apply 25-10-10 fertilizer, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Grow Better, Naturally!

New from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, the 2018 *Garden Guide* to help you to grow greener, cleaner vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, even scent-amentals!

AVAILABLE NOW!

GROW FOOD YOU LOVE!

- tomatoes, peas, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, and more
- citrus for porch, patio, or playroom
- asparagus, ramps, onions, and more

GROW QUICK AND EASY!

DIY in a weekend:

- make a plant tower
- pot up herbs for indoors
- start veggie seeds successfully

GROW YOUR SENSES!

- electrify with color
- surround yourself with fragrance
- master your microclimate

GROW YOUR SKILLS!

- test your soil 5 ways
- curtail critters kindly
- plan a pleasing pathway
- bring chickens home to roost

FEAST ON FRESHNESS:

Recipes for dip, soup, salad, snacks, even dessert, using the harvest.

PLUS: the latest trends, time- and money-saving tips, gardening by the Moon, new products, and more! Grow with the 2018 *Garden Guide* and grow better!



ORDER YOUR COPY AT ALMANAC.COM/GARDENGUIDE



Strawberry Recipes

June 28 will bring the full Strawberry Moon—so named because Algonquin tribes knew that this time of year was ideal for harvesting the sweet, ripening fruit.

After you've gathered your berries (from your garden, farmers' market, or local supermarket), bring them into the kitchen and try them in these recipes.

FOOD



 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Prizewinning Strawberry Jam

PRIZEWINNING STRAWBERRY JAM

2 quarts slightly crushed strawberries

6 cups sugar

2 tablespoons lemon juice



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

In a saucepan, combine strawberries and sugar. Cook rapidly for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add lemon juice and cook for about 10 minutes longer, or until thick. Pour into sterilized jars, leaving 1/4 inch of headspace. Put on jar lids and screw the metal bands tight. Process in a boiling-water bath for 10 minutes.

Makes 3 to 4 pints.

FOOD

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



Grilled Angel Food Cake With Berry Wine Sauce and Fresh Lemon Whipped Cream

PHOTO: BECKY LUGART-STAYNER

GRILLED ANGEL FOOD CAKE WITH BERRY WINE SAUCE AND FRESH LEMON WHIPPED CREAM

SAUCE:

1 cup sugar
1 cup good cabernet wine
1 cinnamon stick
orange rind stuck with 4
cloves
2 pounds strawberries,
hulled and sliced

1 tablespoon lemon zest
1 tablespoon fresh lemon
juice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

CAKE:

1 angel food cake (favorite
homemade recipe or
prepared), sliced
sliced strawberries, for
garnish
mint sprigs (optional)

WHIPPED CREAM:

1 cup heavy cream
3 tablespoons
confectioners' sugar

For sauce: In a saucepan, combine sugar, wine, cinnamon stick, and orange rind with cloves. Bring to a boil. Simmer for 30 minutes, or until reduced by half, stirring occasionally. Strain out cinnamon stick, orange rind, and cloves. Cool, then pour over sliced berries and stir to coat. Chill in refrigerator.

For whipped cream: In a bowl, beat heavy cream until foamy. Gradually add confectioners' sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and vanilla. Continue whipping until soft peaks form.

To assemble: Preheat grill to medium.

Spray angel food cake slices with cooking spray. Grill on each side for a couple of minutes, or until grill marks appear and slices are golden brown.

Place each cake slice on a serving dish and spoon berry sauce on top. Finish with a dollop of whipped cream. Garnish with fresh berries and mint (if using).

Makes 8 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Spinach Strawberry Salad

SPINACH STRAWBERRY SALAD

DRESSING:

1/2 cup canola oil

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

2 tablespoons sesame seeds

1 tablespoon poppy seeds

1-1/2 teaspoons minced onion

1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1/4 teaspoon paprika

SALAD:

10 ounces fresh spinach

1 pint strawberries, thinly sliced

walnuts or almonds, optional

For dressing: In a blender, combine all ingredients. Blend well. If dressing seems thick, add a few drops of water.

For salad: Remove stems from spinach and tear leaves into bite-size pieces. Arrange spinach on individual salad plates or in a salad bowl. Arrange strawberries and nuts (if using) on top.

Drizzle dressing over salad and serve.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

LIVING NATURALLY



Hang It Up— Laundry, That Is

PHOTO: JOYCE VINCENT/SHUTTERSTOCK

LIVING NATURALLY



LINE-DRYING PROLONGS THE LIFE OF YOUR CLOTHING.

I don't own a clothes dryer, which means that I need to use sturdy indoor and outdoor drying equipment.

The year the wooden posts holding up our old outside clothesline finally collapsed, I ordered one I found online featuring steel posts, crossbeams, and a lifetime guarantee. (An old-fashioned carousel type is available at TractorSupply.com.)

Because it was a gift for the man of the house, I had the product delivered to my office so

that I could keep it as a surprise.

It arrived one day when I was out of the office, appearing to be nothing but a couple of long, beefy steel poles taped together (the crosspieces were tucked inside the support poles, and customers provide their own clotheslines).

Because of my reputation as the office exercise fanatic, my colleagues assumed that I'd ordered a stripping pole, since "pole dancing" was one of the hot new exercise trends

that year.

We all had quite a laugh when I let them in on the true purpose of the poles. I hauled them home in our ancient pickup, and the gift was well received. We set the support poles into 18 inches of cement, and years later our laundry still swings brightly on sunny days year-round.

Are you planning to hang out this summer?

If not, why not?

Let me give a few of my top reasons for hanging the family laundry outside:

HANGING LAUNDRY GETS YOU OUTSIDE.

- You'll **lower your gas or electric bill.** Project Laundry List estimates that the average household could save 10 to 20 percent annually on utility bills by hanging the wash.
- You'll **lower your risk of a home fire.** According to the National Fire Protection Association, clothes dryers or washing machines cause about 4 percent of house fires. In 2006, these appliances caused 15 civilian deaths, 360 injuries, and \$194 million in direct property damage.
- Hanging laundry **gets you outside.** Being outside in bright

light can alleviate depression, improve immunity, increase social relationships, and more.

- **Line-drying prolongs the life of your clothing.** The roiling and tumbling of damp laundry takes its toll on the fibers in clothing and bedding.
- **Sunlight is a good bleach and disinfectant.** Line-drying also helps remove stains without adding chemical agents to your wash. The downside: Fading. To prevent bright colors from fading, turn the items inside out or hang them on bars in the shade.
- **You can't beat the**

scent of line-dried laundry. Ahhhhh! Plunging my nose into a pile of sun-dried clothes releases a cascade of feel-good endorphins.

- Rough, air-dried towels make the best **exfoliants.** (Did you know that you can actually buy “exfoliating towels”?) Saves time and money, since you can multitask—exfoliate all over while you dry off—and forget about buying exfoliating scrubs and scrubbers.

—Margaret Boyles



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

PLAN YOUR BEST GARDEN EVER!



**#1
GARDEN
PLANNER**



Let **The Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Planner** customize your plot (or pot!) to your space, your climate, your schedule. Our database helps you to choose your best plants. Biweekly emails offer timesaving advice and timely reminders. You harvest more than ever!

**USE THE GARDEN PLANNER FREE FOR 7 DAYS.
GO TO [ALMANAC.COM/GARDENPLANNER](https://www.almanac.com/gardenplanner)**

Versions available for PC/Mac and iPad/iPhone.

Gardening has never been easier, faster, or more fun!

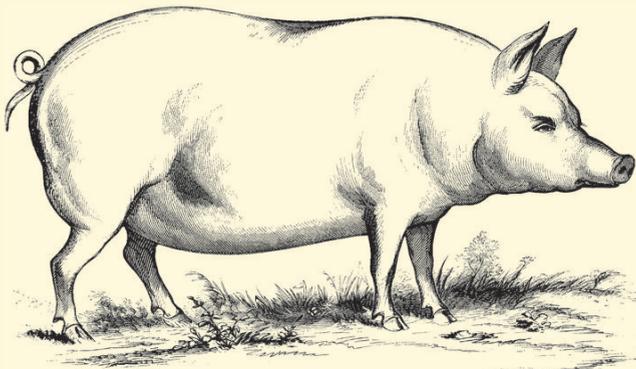
THE OLD
FARMER'S ALMANAC
GARDEN PLANNER

AMUSEMENT



The Extraordinary Race Between the Horse and the Pig

Well, it was considered extraordinary in those days . . .



Everyone knows about the race between the Hare and the Tortoise. Another strange race took place between a horse and a pig. This was not a fable, however. It happened in New Hampshire many years ago at a time when horses and wagons were the only way to get about the countryside.

Nearly every farmer was raising colts, and any colt broken to harness and wagon would bring \$100. Two-wheeled carts came into use because they were good for breaking the colts, should they shy to the side or suddenly decide to go in reverse. Naturally, much attention was given to the horses that could get about in “quick time.” A “fast one” would bring real money, sometimes even \$500. Some farmers did little else but talk, buy, and sell horses.

Sam Dana seemed to do little else but break colts and talk trotting horses. He was really successful with the colts. He would break a 2-year-old that was “halter handy,” and in 2 weeks he was driving it around like a well-trained horse. He picked up considerable cash money this way. With him, it was horses, horses all the time. Seemed to be his only business. He had figured out how many feet a trotter would advance per second at given speeds. Sam just had a way with horses.

Farmer Colby got fed up with all of this talk and said, “Look here, Sam. I have a Yorkshire pig at my place that can beat any trotter you have on a half-mile stretch. Here’s a \$10 bill to back it up.”

The stipulations were that the horse had to maintain a trot and that the place was to be measured half a mile out from Colby’s farm, with the finish line at the farm. Colby was to have 2 weeks to train his pig. The race was set for 10:00 A.M.

There was laughter and joking around the cracker barrel, but Colby had no trouble in taking on a few side bets at high odds. Few folks seemed to know the speed that a half-grown

pig could get up.

To train the pig, Colby put it in a crate on a “stoneboat,” a low wooden sled used to pull large stones. Colby’s son, with a horse, pulled the pig up to the starting place each day at 10:00 A.M., before the pig had been fed. He was squealing hungry and let it be known on his ride to the starting point. Colby let the pig out and, with a switch, hustled his racer right along the home course. At the end, in the feeding trough of his pen, the pig found six ears of yellow corn.

On the second day, Colby had trouble keeping up with his porker. The third day, the pig shot out of the crate when released and went down the road like a white streak. He was after his 100 percent—golden corn!

From then on, Colby stationed himself along the course to see if the pig maintained his speed. He found that the White Yorkshire kept his running pace until he got to the corn.

On the day of the race, excitement ran high and the whole countryside seemed to be there, lining the roadsides. Two judges were agreed upon, one at the start and one at the finish. Colby stayed at the finish line.

As planned, at 10:00 A.M., the starter judge shouted, “Go!” It was a standing start for both. The young Colby boy swung the crate door wide. The pig went forth like a white flash. The horse was so upset it broke into a running start and a little time was lost to get him back to a trot. Twice Sam Dana got his horse up to the pig, but each time he broke into a run when attempting to pass. The pounding of hoofs and rattle of wheels had no effect on the pig. Only the golden corn and a belated breakfast was on its mind.

Colby’s porker came over the line with 30 feet to spare. There was lots of joking, debts were paid, and it was called a day. Or a pig tale.

—William H. Sanders



A DRIPPING JUNE BRINGS ALL THINGS IN TUNE.

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.

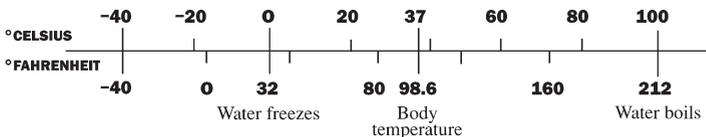


TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

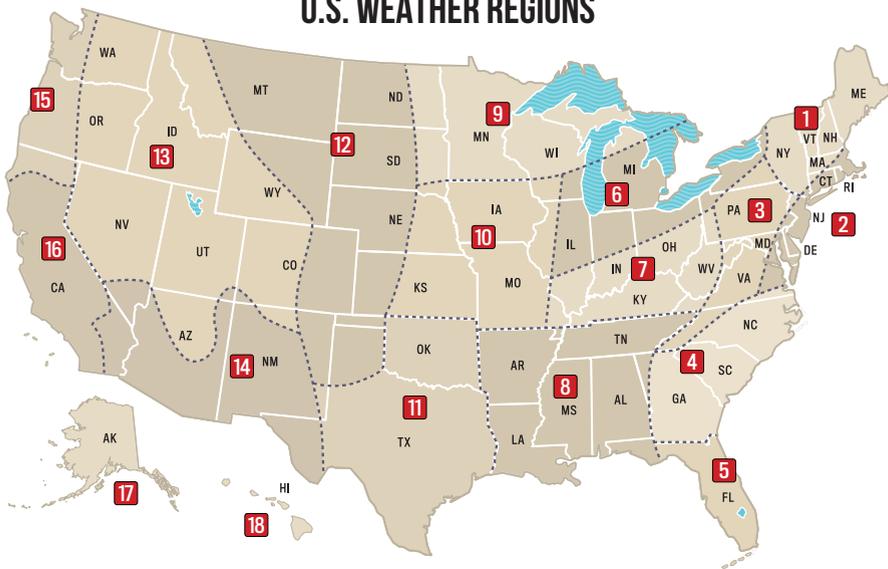
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



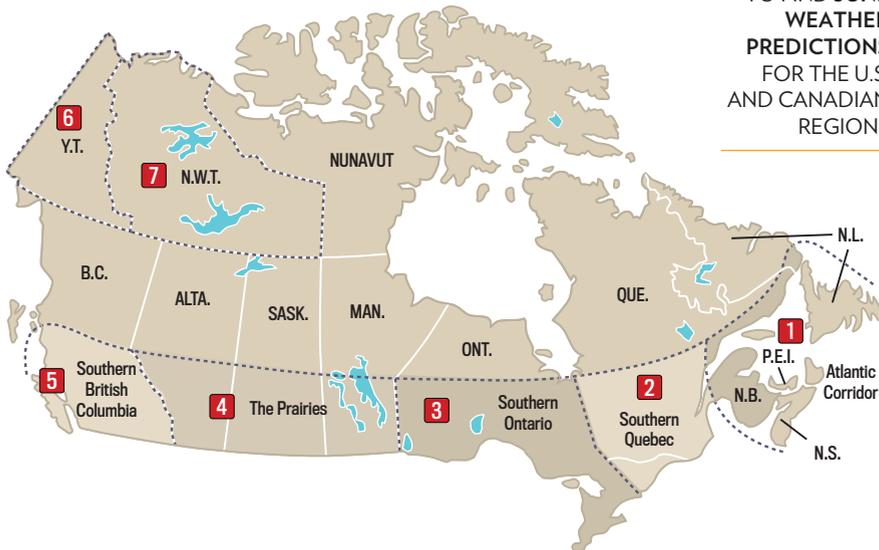


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





FAITH AND THE FIRMAMENT

Throughout history, religious milestones and unusual weather events and natural phenomena have often coincided. Whether you believe in the divine or not, it can be interesting to contemplate the connections.

- Perhaps the best-known biblical story about the weather is that of Noah's Ark, with 40 days and 40 nights of rain causing a world-engulfing flood. Geologists have found sediment layers that suggest that 7,500 years ago, Mediterranean water roared into the Black Sea, bringing a devastating flood to the region.

- According to a NASA computer

model, at the time of the parting of the Red Sea during the Exodus from Egypt by Moses and the Israelites, a similar event may have occurred in the eastern Nile Delta, at a body of water called the Lake of Tanis.

- In some ways, the success of Muhammad (570–632) in founding Islam in the early 7th century may have been aided by weather events that preceded him.

In 530 A.D., Halley's Comet passed close to Earth and the Sun, releasing a dust veil into Earth's atmosphere that lasted for several years and reduced the amount of sunlight reaching Earth's surface. Just 5 years later, the



volcano Krakatoa (in what is now Indonesia) had a major eruption, and this further reduced the amount of sunlight. Records show that the years 535–536 had the most severe and protracted Northern Hemisphere cooling episodes of the past 2,000 years, with temperatures dropping as much as 10°F globally, which caused widespread crop failures and famines.

At the same time, severe drought in northern and eastern Africa also killed crops, and this unleashed a chain reaction in the ecosystem. Gerbils and mice that normally fed on the crops died, and the larger predators that normally would have eaten the rodents also died. When the drought ended a few years later, increased rainfall restored plant life, and the fast-breeding gerbils were able to rapidly repopulate their numbers. Because the larger predators took longer to repopulate, the rodents were able to multiply far beyond their previous numbers. As a result, for a few years, East Africa was overrun by mice and gerbils, which were carriers of the bubonic plague but immune to it themselves.

Infected rodents traveled to Europe on merchant ships and rapidly spread the Plague throughout Europe in 541. The effects ravaged the Roman Empire, killing half of its

inhabitants and thereby changing the global balance of power. It has been estimated that 25 to 50 million people died in that plague—one-eighth to one-quarter of Earth's population at the time and equivalent to 1 to 2 billion people today.

This decimation, among other causes, weakened the Roman Empire to such an extent that Arab armies were able to conquer much of what remained of it, thus creating conditions conducive to the revelations of Muhammad.

- Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai Khan, united China to form the Yuan Dynasty under his rule. He then decided to conquer the islands of Japan. In October 1274, after his demands for immediate surrender went unanswered, Kublai attacked Japan with 40,000 men and 900 ships. The Japanese defended with 10,000 men.

All signs pointed to a rout of the Japanese defenders; the Chinese attackers had better weapons and a more suitable fighting style. But just as the Chinese forces were about to land in Japan, a powerful typhoon struck the coast and destroyed the attackers' fleet and most of their army. (A typhoon is the name for a hurricane when it occurs in the western Pacific region.) Shinto priests, who believed that the storms



were the result of prayer, called them kamikaze, or “divine wind.”

If the Chinese had had greater knowledge of tropical storms and their seasonality and had picked a different time of year for the invasion, the results would likely have been very different—as would be the Asian, and even world, history that followed. Seven years later, Kublai Khan brought together a force of 140,000 soldiers and 4,400 vessels to take the islands once and for all, but again, nature intervened: A furious storm wrecked 95 percent of the Chinese ships and left the survivors as little match for the Japanese.

- The volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora (in what is now Indonesia) on April 5–15, 1815—the world’s largest volcanic eruption since 180 A.D.—contributed to the so-called “Year Without a Summer,” the

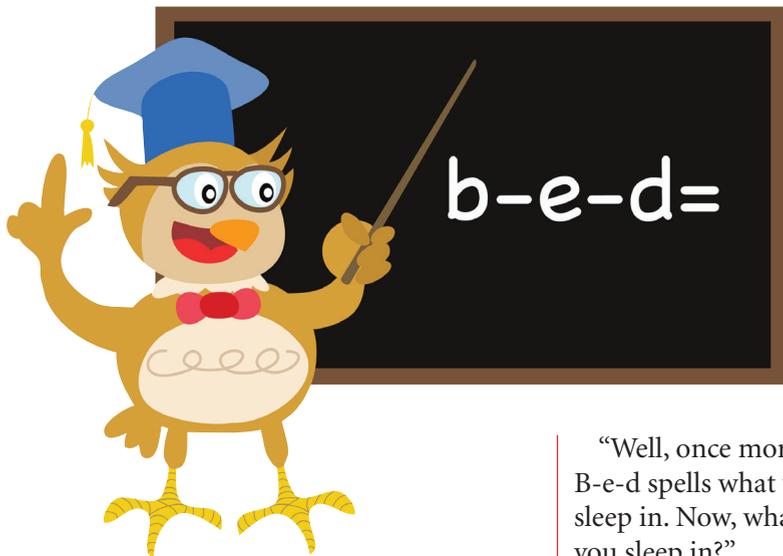
unusual cold and snow that occurred from May to August of 1816 across the northeastern United States, Europe, and Asia. The cool-down resulted in crop failures, famine, epidemics, riots, arson, looting, and deaths. In America during July 1816, lakes and rivers in northwestern Pennsylvania froze, snow fell on Long Island, and several killing frosts occurred across most of New England. Because of the severe cold, many New Englanders left the area, including the family of Joseph Smith, which moved from New Hampshire to Palmyra, New York. In 1823, Smith found the plates of the Book of Mormon in nearby Manchester, which led to him eventually founding The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC ARCHIVES



TRIALS OF A TEACHER

The teacher was having some trouble with a little fellow in her spelling class.

“B-e-d spells bed,” she explained over and over again. “B-e-d, bed. B-e-d, bed. Do you understand?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

“Now, then. C-a-t spells cat. D-o-g spells dog. And b-e-d spells? What did I tell you b-e-d spells?”

“I dunno.”

“Don’t know? After all I’ve told you?”

“No, ma’am.”

“Well, once more: B-e-d spells what you sleep in. Now, what do you sleep in?”

“My drawers!” exclaimed the pupil triumphantly.

Lockjaw

The telephone rang with anxious persistence.

“Yes?” answered the doctor.



“Oh, doctor,” said a worried voice, “something seems to have happened to my wife. Her mouth seems set and she can’t say a word.”



“Why, she may have lockjaw,” said the medical man.

“Do you think so? Well, if you are up this way sometime next month, I wish you would stop in and see what you can do for her.”

OUTCOME

Defeated candidate: “You encouraged me to run for office. You

know you did. You said you thought I wouldn’t make a bad alderman.”

Trusty pal: “Well, the returns seem to show that I was right.”

Makes Sense

An old Yankee was smoking in the waiting room of a railroad station when a porter said to him: “Don’t you see that notice on the wall? ‘No Smoking Allowed.’”

“Sure,” said the old fellow, “but how can I keep all your rules? There’s another on the wall that says ‘Wear Acme Corsets.’”



THE REAL NEWS

“Your wife,” said the reporter, “and the man with whom she took off have been found in New York. They were on their way to California, but they lost their money and are stranded in the city.”

“Well . . . ?” said the man, quite unmoved.

“Why . . . er . . . we thought you might want the news.”

“That is not the news,” said the husband. “The news is that I have just sent them enough money to keep going.”

Fisherman’s Luck

*As man and his motor have brought it about,
The angler must learn, if he hopes to take trout,
Two dominant factors in fisherman’s luck:
The schedule and route of the hatchery truck.*



WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

Secrets of purslane



CALENDAR

Aphelion, July birthdays,
Declaration of Independence



LIVING NATURALLY

Why your garden is the ultimate reality show



AMUSEMENT

The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth



FOOD

Summer Salad Recipes



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!*

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 226TH YEAR!