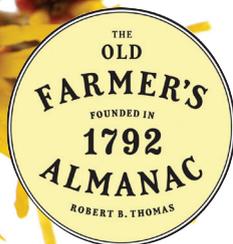
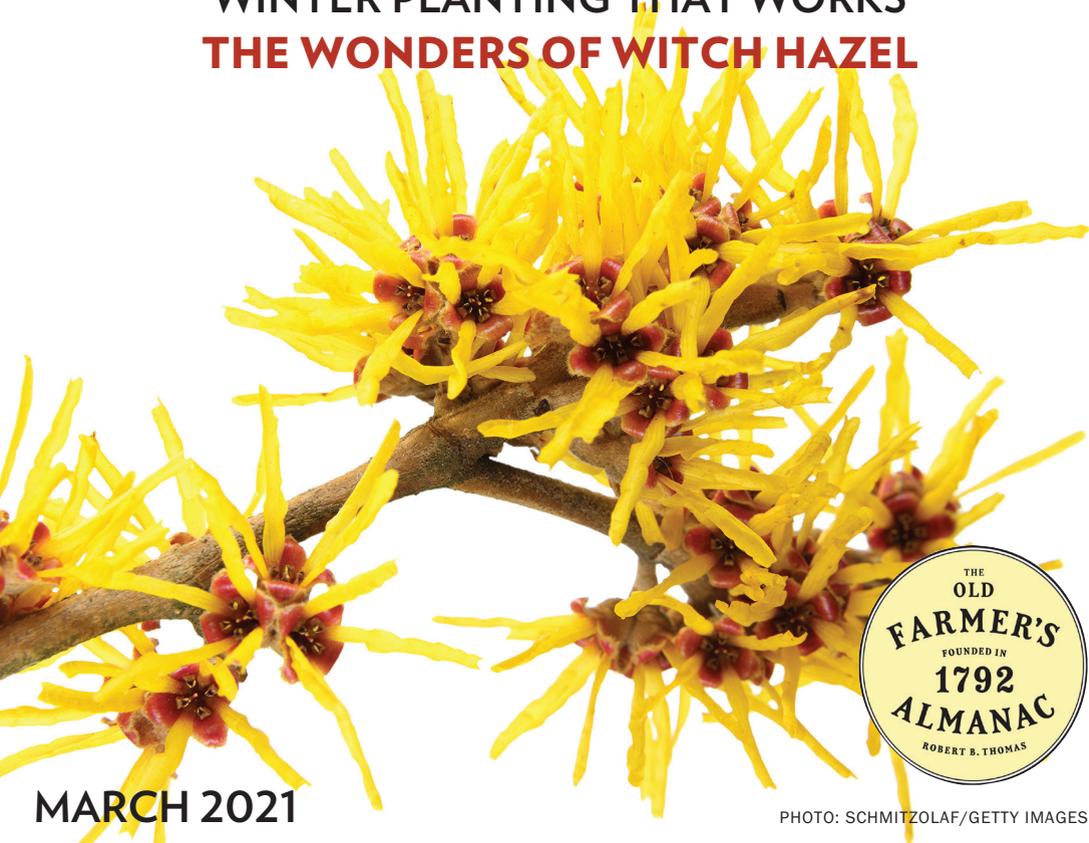


EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

PRIZEWINNING RECIPES
EVEN MORE BRILLIANT WAYS TO
BECOME A GENIUS
WINTER PLANTING THAT WORKS
THE WONDERS OF WITCH HAZEL



MARCH 2021

PHOTO: SCHMITZOLAF/GETTY IMAGES

FEATURES

LIVING NATURALLY

The Wonders of
Witch Hazel

FOOD

Prizewinning
Recipes

AMUSEMENT

Even More Brilliant
Ways to Become a
Genius

GARDENING

Winter Planting
That Works



WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make
Our Predictions

March U.S.
and Canadian
Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

March Holidays,
Full Moon Names,
and More

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to
Do Things

Gardening by the
Moon's Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map
for March

WIT

Humor Me
*Grins and groans
from the Almanac*

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have
in store for our
April issue!



FOLLOW US:



MARCH

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More



EYE ON THE SKY

MARCH'S FULL MOON NAMES

Worm Moon; also Eagle Moon, Sore Eye Moon, and Sugar Moon

MOON PHASES

Last Quarter: Mar. 5, 8:30 P.M. EST

New Moon: Mar 13, 5:21 A.M. EST

First Quarter: Mar 21, 10:40 A.M. EDT

Full Moon: Mar. 28, 2:48 P.M. EDT

SPECIAL EVENT

The **March equinox** occurs on the 20th at 5:37 A.M. EDT. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is known as the vernal, or spring, equinox, and marks the start of the spring season. In the Southern Hemisphere, autumn begins.



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MARCH'S FULL MOON

*So, silently but swift,
Above the wintry drift,
The long days gain and gain,
Until on hill and plain—*

*Once more, and yet once more,
Returning as before,
We see the bloom of birth
Make young again the earth.*

—Nora Perry, American poet (1831–96)

A MONTH TO REMEMBER

“March” is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Mar. 8: International Women’s Day

Mar. 14: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 A.M.

Mar. 15: Clean Monday (Great Lent begins)

Mar. 17: St. Patrick’s Day

Mar 20: Vernal Equinox

Mar. 27: Passover begins at sundown

Mar. 28: Palm Sunday

Mar. 31: César Chávez Day



BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These March 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

Advertise to sell: 16–18

Ask for a loan: 3, 4, 30, 31

Begin diet to lose weight: 4, 30, 31

Begin diet to gain weight: 18, 27

Buy a home: 16, 17

Color hair: 16–18

Cut hair to discourage growth:
1, 2, 29

Cut hair to encourage growth:
17, 18

Entertain: 24, 25

Get married: 1, 2, 28, 29

Have dental care: 26, 27

Move (house/household): 19, 20



Perm hair: 9, 10

Quit smoking: 4, 30, 31

Straighten hair: 5, 6

Travel for pleasure: 24, 25

Wean children: 4, 30, 31

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 21–23

Brew: 3, 4, 30, 31

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:
3, 4, 30, 31

Demolish: 3, 4, 30, 31

Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 5, 6

End projects: 12

Lay shingles: 24, 25

Make jams or jellies: 11–13

Paint: 1, 2, 28, 29

Start projects: 14

Wash floors: 11–13

Wash windows: 14, 15

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 7, 8

Go camping: 5, 6

Go fishing: 13–28

Set posts or pour concrete: 7, 8

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 14, 15

Graft or pollinate: 21–23

Harvest aboveground crops: 16–18

Harvest belowground crops: 7, 8

Mow to slow growth: 3, 4, 30, 31

Mow to promote growth: 14, 15

Pick fruit: 26, 27

Plant aboveground crops: 21–23

Plant belowground crops: 3, 4,
30, 31

Prune to discourage growth: 5, 6

Prune to encourage growth: 14, 15

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 3, 4, 30, 31

Castrate animals: 9, 10

Cut hay: 14, 15

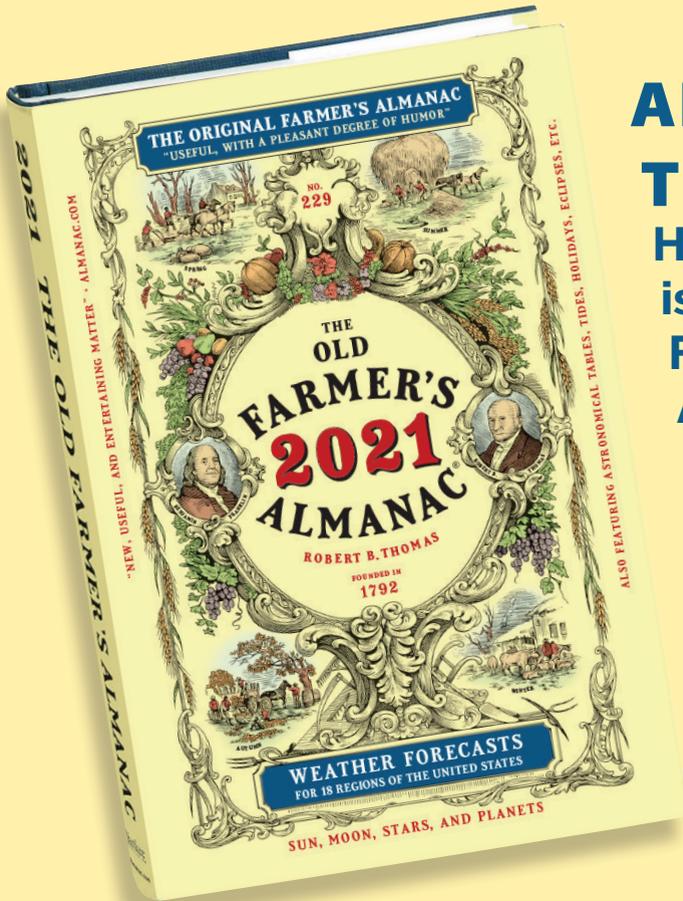
Purchase animals: 21–23

Set eggs: 1, 2, 28, 29

Slaughter livestock: 3, 4, 30, 31

Wean animals: 4, 30, 31

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GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the March 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 MARCH

1 Libra	9 Aquarius	17 Taurus	25 Leo
2 Libra	10 Aquarius	18 Taurus	26 Virgo
3 Scorpio	11 Pisces	19 Gemini	27 Virgo
4 Scorpio	12 Pisces	20 Gemini	28 Libra
5 Sagittarius	13 Pisces	21 Cancer	29 Libra
6 Sagittarius	14 Aries	22 Cancer	30 Scorpio
7 Capricorn	15 Aries	23 Cancer	31 Scorpio
8 Capricorn	16 Taurus	24 Leo	



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
MARCH MOON
PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

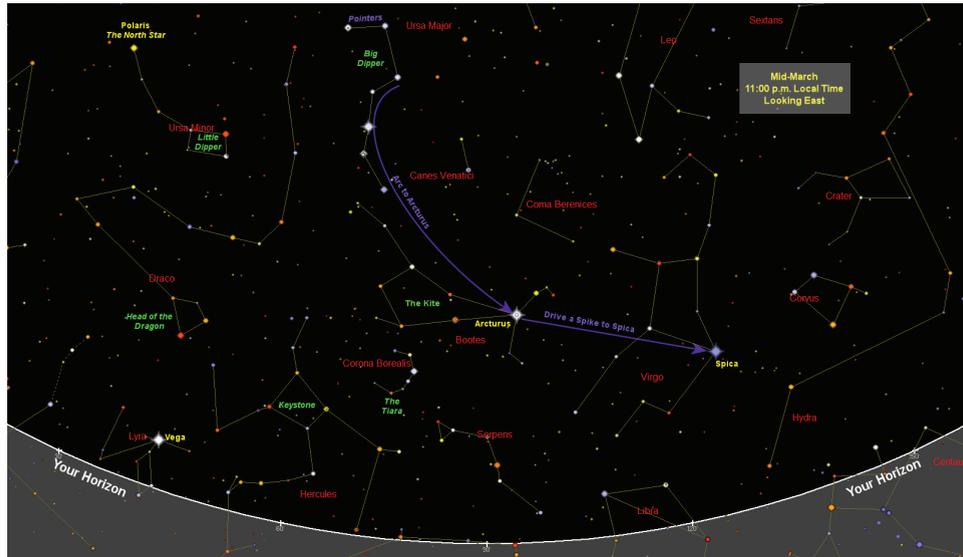
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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

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

Mercury's 2021 retrograde periods:
May 29–June 22, and September 27–October 23.

—Celeste Longacre



POINTERS IN THE SKY

Getting your bearings under the night sky can be a challenge, even if you have a sky map or star chart to help you. Star gazers of every experience level—from newcomer to expert—typically begin an evening of observing by finding a single familiar star pattern (asterism) and using it to point the way. On March evenings, there is no better place to start than with the Big Dipper.

The Big Dipper asterism is composed of the seven brightest stars in the constellation Ursa Major, the Greater Bear. The shape of the Big Dipper never varies, but its orientation changes constantly. This month's Sky Map shows the Dipper as it appears during March in the late evening, when it seems to be standing upright, precariously balanced on its handle. Come back just a few hours later, and the Dipper will have moved so that it is upside-down as if pouring out its contents. Return at a different time of year, and the Big

-  TAP TO GET A PRINTABLE MARCH SKY MAP
-  TAP TO FOLLOW OHIOAN JEFF DETRAY'S SKY ADVENTURES



Dipper might be to the left of Polaris instead of on the right as it is in March. Learn to recognize the Big Dipper no matter what its orientation is.

The Dipper's stars always point the way to other celestial sights. The two stars that form the front end of the Dipper's bowl are known as the Pointers. They point directly toward Polaris, the North Star, in Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear. Because Polaris points the way to true north, it has long been a vital guidepost for navigation on both land and sea. When you use the Pointers to find Polaris, you'll be doing the same thing as countless explorers and sailors have done in the past.

The stars of the Big Dipper's handle form a graceful curve or arc. If you extend this curve past the end of the handle and follow it two more "handle lengths," you'll end up at the bright star Arcturus in Boötes, the Herdsman. The main stars of Boötes form a somewhat lopsided kite shape.

Once you've reached Arcturus, straighten out the curve and make a beeline for Spica, the brightest star in Virgo, the Virgin. The journey from the Big Dipper to Spica has given rise to a popular astronomer's refrain: "Arc to Arcturus, then drive a spike to Spica." Once your gaze has wandered from the Big Dipper to Arcturus to Spica, perhaps you'll remember the refrain the next time you spot the Dipper.

Using the Big Dipper to orient yourself helps to overcome a problem that's common to all star gazers: grasping the scale of the sky. Translating what's shown on a sky map to what you see in the sky can be difficult. Distances in the sky seem greater than what they appear to be on a map. Starting with a bright asterism such as the Big Dipper and then extending your view to encompass Arcturus and Spica can help you to relate your map to the sky that it represents.

Once you understand the scale of the sky, it becomes much easier to find other stars and constellations. On our March map, look for points of interest such as the sinuous body and distinctive head of Draco, the Dragon; the beautiful Tiara shape of Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown; and the Keystone asterism at the heart of Hercules, the Roman Hero.

—Jeff DeTray

LIVING NATURALLY



The Wonders of Witch Hazel

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is a humble but amazing native North American shrub. It is rare among flowering plants in that its delicate, spidery blossoms open in late fall, alongside last year's fruit, after its leaves have fallen.

For centuries, this plant has been used to calm skin irritations and heal.

A HISTORY OF HEALING

The bark, twigs, leaves, and roots of witch hazel have been used for hundreds of years by Native Americans to treat a host of ills. (They also used its flexible branches to make bows and harvested its seeds for food.)

It's one of only a handful of botanicals approved by the FDA as a drug, and its distilled extracts can still be found on most pharmacy shelves.

Witch hazel's calming components reduce

swelling, help to repair broken skin, and fight bacteria.

Specifically . . .

- Its extracts are used in many cosmetics and skin-care products, including aftershaves.
- Witch hazel soothes the pain and itch of bites, stings, sunburns, bruises, and abrasions.
- Generations of new moms have used gauze pads soaked in witch hazel to ease the pain of episiotomy or perineal tears after childbirth.
- It helps to shrink hemorrhoids.
- It helps to lessen under-eye puffiness due to reducing fluid retention beneath the eyes.
- It is under active investigation for treating diabetes, skin cancers, chronic-wound care, and many other disease conditions.

WITCH HAZEL FOR HOUSEHOLD FIRST AID

You can find many witch hazel-containing

products on drugstore or health food store shelves. Most of them are distilled products that usually are about 14 percent ethyl or isopropyl alcohol (used as preservatives). Generations of Americans have used ordinary drugstore witch hazel as a mild antiseptic and astringent, an aftershave, a toner for oily skin, and more.

Many people have trouble getting used to witch hazel's odd smell, but this dissipates quickly after use. Lots of health food store products containing witch hazel extracts mask the smell by adding essential oils of rose, lavender, or aromatic herbs.

HOW TO MAKE A WITCH HAZEL DECOCTION OR TINCTURE

Nondistilled witch hazel products—tinctures and infusions—capture more of the plant's natural astringent compounds

(called tannins), most of which don't survive the distillation process. Herbalists say that the plant has other beneficial compounds, too.

You can make these yourself if you have access to witch hazel trees in neighboring woods. (Use the native species, *Hamamelis virginiana*, rather than the ornamental varieties sold in plant nurseries.)

To start, prune a few handfuls of twigs and small branches (please prune with care so that you don't injure the tree). To prune, use a set of good, scissor-type pruning shears. Locate the collar, the rough, swollen area at the base of each branch that you plan to cut. Then locate the branch bark ridge (dark, raised area of compressed bark). Make your cut just outside the bark ridge and collar. This will allow the tree to heal its wound and prevent decay from spreading into the trunk. After using a

sharp tool to peel and scrape as much of the bark as possible into your container, cut the twigs into small pieces. The bark—especially the inner bark—contains the highest concentration of healing compounds.

- For a **water-based witch hazel decoction**, place the chopped twigs and scraped bark into a stainless steel pot. Completely cover the witch hazel with water (use distilled water if your tap water is heavily treated), bring the contents to a boil, and then cover the pot, reduce the heat, and simmer for at least half an hour. Keep the twigs covered with water. Set in a cool place overnight and then strain into a glass jar. Refrigerate and use within a few days.

- To make a **long-lasting alcohol tincture**, place the chopped bark and twigs in a large glass jar and cover with vodka.

Let it sit in a dark, cool place for 6 weeks and then strain and store, covered, in a glass jar (also in a cool, dark place). To use, dilute a couple of tablespoons in half a cup of water; soak clean gauze, a washcloth, or cotton balls in the mixture; and apply.

Use the decoction or tincture on hemorrhoids, poison ivy, sunburns, bites and swellings, varicose veins, and tired muscles. You can also put some of the decoction or tincture into a spray bottle to spritz onto wounds, bruises, and itchy areas.

Although you may see references to sipping witch hazel teas and tonics for diarrhea and other conditions, most herbalists recommend using it internally only under the care of your healthcare professional.

—Margaret Boyles



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



Prizewinning Recipes

Each year in *The Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Guide*, we invite our audience to enter our Reader Recipe Contest. We've asked for your favorite recipes using strawberries, peas, butternut squash, apples, potatoes, and many more garden-fresh ingredients! Here you'll find winners from our recent contests to give you an idea of the range of delicious recipes that we receive. To learn more about our contests, go to Almanac.com!

FOOD

Butternut Squash With Penne and Sausage

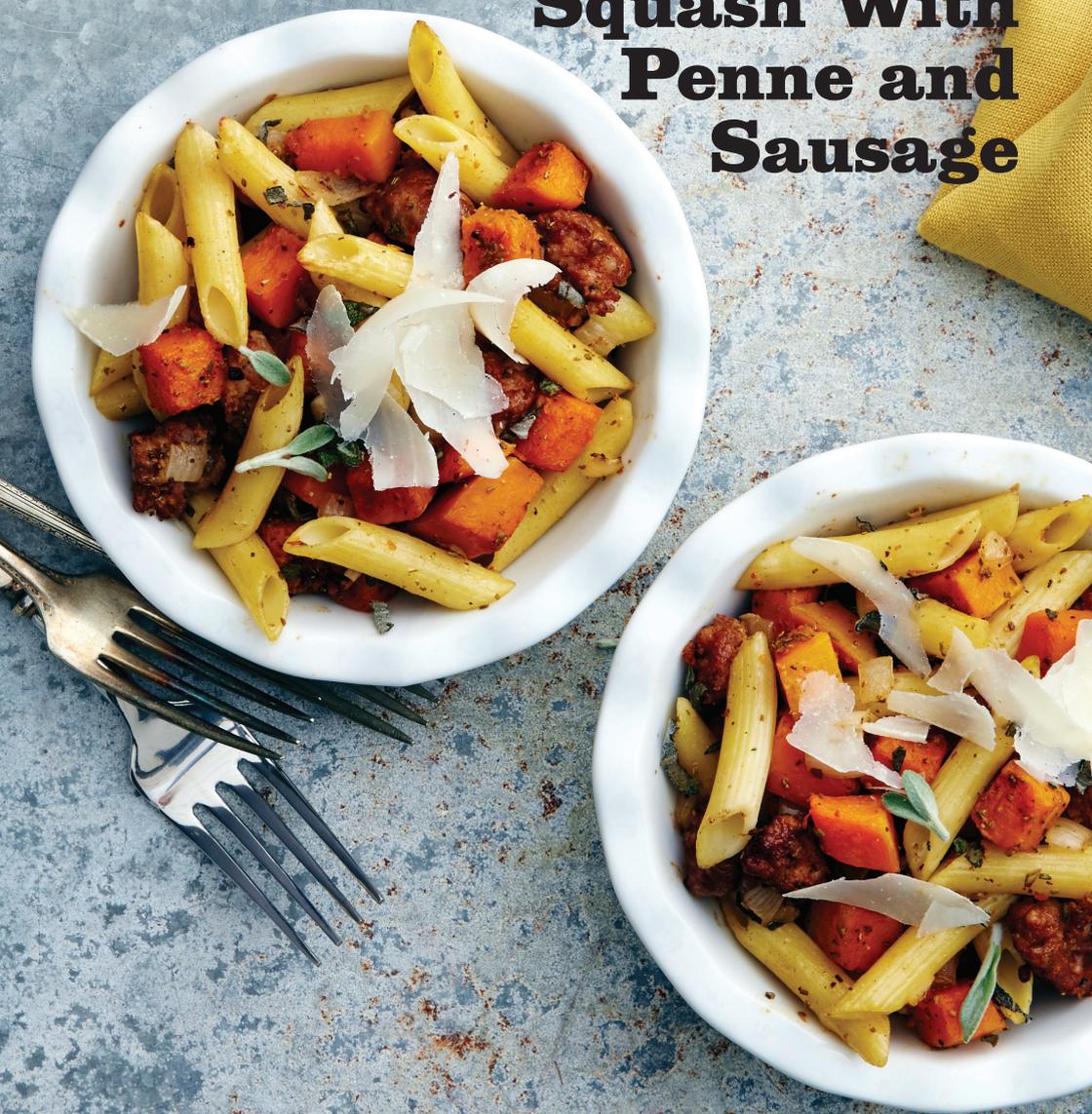


PHOTO: BECKY LUGART-STAYNER

BUTTERNUT SQUASH WITH PENNE AND SAUSAGE

- 2-1/2 cups penne pasta
- 1 pound ground sausage
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped sage (or 2 tablespoons dry rubbed)
- 1 tablespoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup shaved or shredded Parmesan cheese, for topping

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Cook penne pasta according to package directions, until al dente. Set aside in water.

In a skillet, brown sausage, onions, and garlic. Transfer sausage to a large bowl, leaving the rendered fat in the skillet.

Add olive oil to skillet and cook squash until edges begin to brown. Add squash to sausage.

Drain pasta. Add to sausage and squash. Add sage, rosemary, cinnamon, and red pepper flakes. Toss lightly to mix.

Pour vinegar and Worcestershire into the skillet, heat on low and scrape to deglaze. Add liquid and bits to sausage mixture. Toss lightly.

Transfer to a large casserole. Bake, covered, for 15 to 20 minutes, or until top is browned and squash is tender.

Serve topped with Parmesan.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.



Green Pea Walnut Pesto

GREEN PEA WALNUT PESTO

- 1 cup frozen peas, defrosted
- 2/3 cup chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 large cloves garlic, chopped

Place peas, spinach, walnuts, cheese, basil, oil, salt and garlic in a food processor or blender. Process, adding up to 6 tablespoons of water to get desired pesto consistency.

Makes 1 pint.

FOOD



Nebraska Apple Cake

PHOTO: BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER

NEBRASKA APPLE CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon orange extract
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 cups peeled, cored, and shredded Granny Smith apples
- 1 cup chopped walnuts, preferably black walnuts
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan.

In a bowl, mix together sugar, oil, orange extract, and eggs.

In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon.

Add dry ingredients to egg mixture. Stir well. Stir in apples and walnuts. Mix thoroughly.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle butterscotch chips on top. Bake for 1 hour, or until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

Makes 12 servings.

AMUSEMENT



Even More Brilliant Ways to Become a Genius

This year marks the centennial of Albert Einstein's recognition with the Nobel Prize for Physics. So, what better time to resolve to become a genius—or at least a little smarter than you are now.

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

FANTASIZE

It takes a lot of time to be a genius—you have to sit around so much doing nothing, really doing nothing.

—Gertrude Stein,
American writer (1874–1946)

Einstein said, “When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge.” He used his imagination to push beyond what is familiar and look at problems from many different perspectives.

HOLD THAT THOUGHT!

A good memory is an essential ingredient of genius.

—John Ferguson,
Scottish writer (1851–99)

K. Anders Ericsson (1947–2020), formerly a psychologist at Florida State University, believed that a talent for storing information about particular topics is the ingredient essential to

expert performance in any field. He also believed that such a skill can be developed at will. Exceptionally bright people place important pieces of information into their long-term memories in a way that makes the information accessible to working-memory processes.

HAVE FUN!

Men of lofty genius when they are doing the least work are most active.

—Leonardo da Vinci, Italian artist
(1452–1519)

Arthur Molella (b. 1944), director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention

and Innovation, has observed: “The sense of play is the essence of inventive activity. Invention begins in the joyful, free association of the mind.”

—Harry Manning

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOU’RE A GENIUS?

You can’t tell—exactly. According to Mensa, the international society of highly intelligent people, “genius” can not be measured; tests can not capture the diverse areas of aptitude and creativity exhibited by brilliant people. You can see how close you come to being Mensa material, however. Among the more than 200 tests (and minimum scores) accepted for membership are the following:
—H. M.

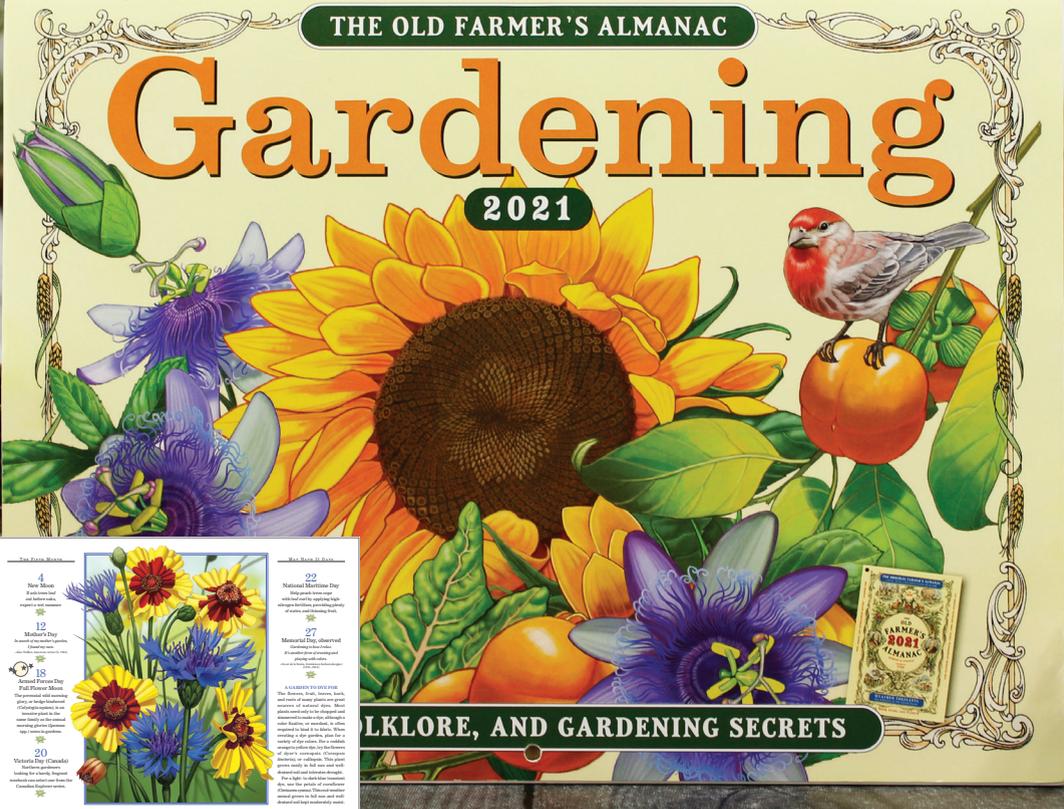
TEST	MINIMUM SCORE
Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	
Through 4/30/1994	1250
From 5/1/1994 through 9/30/2001	1875
Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)	95%
College SAT (math plus verbal)	
Through 9/29/1974	1300
From 9/30/1974 through 1/31/1994	1250
From 2/1/1994 onward	N/A*

*not accepted (Mensa considers SATs taken on or after February 1, 1994, to be achievement tests measuring knowledge, not inductive and deductive reasoning.)

Old Farmer's Almanac 2021 Garden Calendar

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

Gardening 2021



PLANTING, CARE, AND GARDENING SECRETS

New Moon 4
New Moon
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

12 Mother's Day
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

15 Grand Parents Day
Grand Parents Day
The perfect gift is a bouquet of flowers. Grandparents love to see their grandchildren and to see them growing up.

23 National Mother's Day
National Mother's Day
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

27 Memorial Day
Memorial Day
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

28 Labor Day
Labor Day
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

31 Veterans Day
Veterans Day
An excellent time to plant and transplant.

2021

MAY

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

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GARDENING



Winter Planting That Works

PHOTO: SINGKHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Can't wait for spring? Ready to do something really daring? Go out into your garden and plant a few rows of seeds—right now! Hardy vegetables such as lettuce or spinach just might make it through any cold days to come, and they may reward you with a very early spring crop.

IT'S NOT A NEW PHENOMENON

Gardening manuals published in the mid- to late 1800s describe winter planting methods used by market gardeners who sold their crops year-round to customers in Boston, Chicago, and New York. The old-time commercial growers planted biennials such as kale, collards, cabbages, and turnip greens in January and February, right on open frozen ground.

Directly sown, newly emerging seedlings can endure frigid temperatures, with minimum protection. Plus, sowing directly into the garden in winter reduces some of the challenges of seed-starting.

Cool-weather annual salad plants such as lettuce, arugula, and spinach respond very well to cold-weather planting in Zones 5 and 6. Other vegetables and herbs will often thrive, too. Follow these simple steps for planting on frozen ground to ensure an early springtime crop.

- Plan to **sow more seed** than you might in springtime. Winter planting may result in a lower germination rate than spring sowing. The payoff is substantial. Seedlings that emerge are compact and vigorous. There is no need for a

hardening-off period because they are already acclimated to the garden.

- Choose varieties that are **time-tested performers** in cold climates. Names that include the words “Arctic,” “Siberian,” or “Winter” are good bets. With lettuce, for example, these include ‘Marvel of Four Seasons’ (‘Merveille des Quatre Saisons’), ‘Winter Density’, and ‘Winter Marvel’.

- Plant in an area that is **free from weeds** or remove any that you can see. If the top inch of frozen ground thaws a bit on sunny midwinter days, loosen it up with a rake and remove the weeds. If the ground is frozen, cut off any weed heads with a sharp hoe.

- **Carefully broadcast seeds** over the prepared area. Try to get them

Directly sown, newly emerging seedlings can endure frigid temperatures, with minimum protection.

about 2 inches apart. Lettuce plants are susceptible to leaf rot when crowded, so they will need to be thinned later or transplanted to other parts of the garden to ensure being spaced about 10 inches apart before they mature. Spinach and arugula do well with 2-inch spacing right through harvest.

- Spread a **quarter-inch of soilless seed-starting mixture** over the top of the seeded area. Use your hands or a cement trowel to press the seeded area flat to remove air pockets around the seeds.

- Create an **environment where the seedlings won't suffer wind damage**. Sprinkle on some straw, keeping the layer thin enough so that you can still see the ground. Or, cover the straw with a piece of

floating row cover. Secure with rocks around the edges if necessary.

- **Leave things alone.** Your snoozing seedbed will awaken when Nature says that it is time. Start checking for emerging seedlings when you notice the leaves of spring bulbs beginning to emerge. Leaving the garden blanket in place, allow the dark earth to absorb heat from the sun by removing just enough straw to enable you to see the brown of the soil and the green of the seedlings.

- **Protect emerging seedlings** in early spring with cloches or row cover to help them survive capricious weather.

WHAT TO PLANT IN WINTER

Depending on your growing zone, you may have success

with the following plants. Experiment to find which ones will survive in your zone and remember that everything that makes it through the cold weather simply tastes better!

Herbs

Angelica
Borage
Chervil
Chives
Cilantro
Dill
Fennel
Lemon balm
Parsley
Thyme

Vegetables

Beets
Broccoli
Cabbage
Collard
Kale
Lettuce
Scallions
Spinach
Swiss chard
Turnip greens

—Jeff Aston

Start checking for emerging seedlings when you notice the leaves of spring bulbs beginning to emerge.



WEATHER FORECASTS

WHEN MARCH HAS APRIL WEATHER,
APRIL WILL HAVE MARCH WEATHER.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

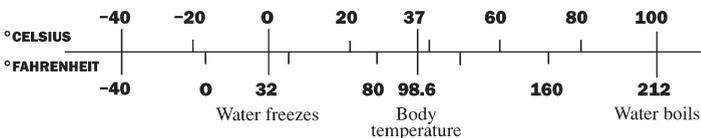
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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

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

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

CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

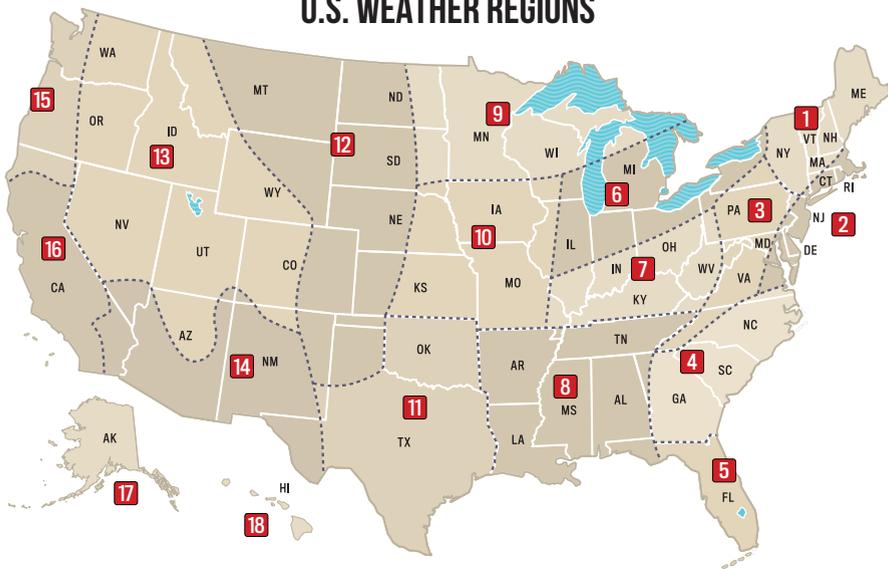


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY

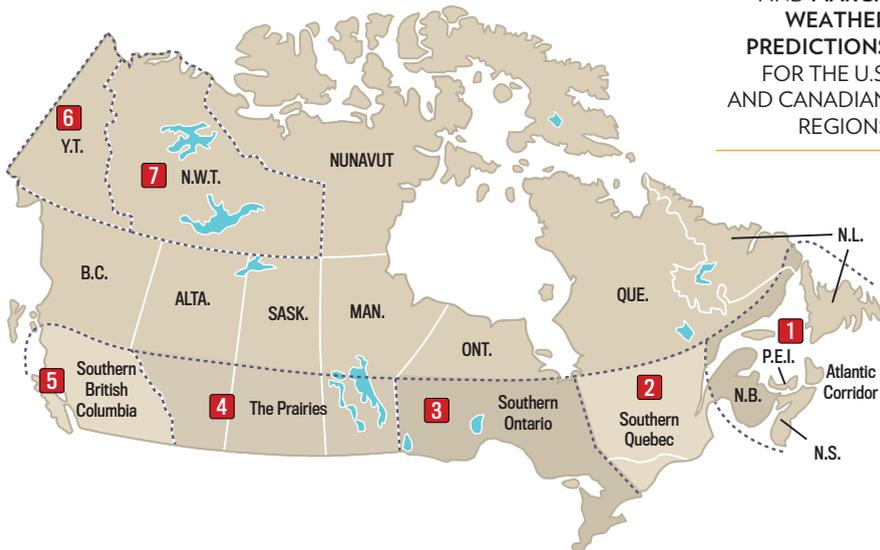


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





“SPRING AHEAD,” INDEED!

On March 14—6 days before the spring equinox—we “spring ahead” with the start of Daylight Saving Time. While this means that we have an extra hour or so of sunlight in the evening, it also means that we lose about an hour in the morning until we “fall back” in the fall.

Most of the United States and Canada will experience springlike temperatures on the 14th, with the only exceptions being the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Canadian Maritimes, Prairies, and North, where more winterlike temperatures will prevail.

Mild or perhaps even warm temperatures will be the rule in most places on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, although rainy periods may dampen celebrations in the Appalachians and Deep South, from Texas to the Heartland and High Plains, from Montana to the Pacific Northwest, in Hawaii, from western Ontario into Quebec, and in southern British Columbia. Colder temperatures and snow showers will add a flurry to parades in Alaska, the Canadian Maritimes, and northwest Ontario and from northern British Columbia into and across Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Springlike weather will appropriately occur in most areas at the vernal, or spring, equinox on March 20, although snow showers will remind us more of winter in the High Plains, Intermountain region, Alaska, Canadian Maritimes, and many central, western, and northern swaths of Canada.

On March 28—both Palm Sunday and the first day of Passover—sunny, mild weather will predominate, with rainy periods limited to Texas, the Intermountain region, California, and Hawaii, and snow showers possible in northern Alaska and from Quebec into the Canadian Maritimes.

Overall, March will feature above-normal temperatures on average in most areas, with cooler-than-normal readings limited to the western United States, Quebec, and British Columbia. Expect below-normal precipitation in most areas in the western states, with near- or above-normal precipitation elsewhere.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



DRAWN TO LOVE

A teacher asked her class to draw a picture of what they wanted to be when they grew up. The pupils went diligently to work with

paper and pencil, some drawing pictures of soldiers, police officers, chefs, and so on. They all worked hard except for one little girl, who sat quietly, holding her

pad and pencil in hand.

The teacher, observing her, asked:

“Don’t you know what you want to be when you grow up, Anna?”



“Yes, I know,” replied the little girl, “but I don’t know how to draw it. I want to be married.”

HE KIDS YOU NOT

Mark Twain, at around the time when he was working hard on one of his earlier books that was to bring him fame, sailed for a tour of Europe with his family.

He kept up his writing on shipboard and left it only at intervals for periods of recreation on deck.

One day, an approaching storm drove him inside the cabin, and he went back to work after leaving word with his daughter, then a very young girl, as to how to explain his absence.

“If they ask for me,” he said to her, “say that

I won’t be long, as I am only going to write an anecdote.”

A little later, the child was accosted by a passenger.

“Where has your father gone?” was the inquiry.

“He won’t be long,” replied the girl. “He said he was only going to ride a nanny goat.”

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

A city gentleman was advised by his doctor that if he did not give up whiskey, it would shorten his life.

“Think so?” he asked.

“I am sure of it. If you would stop drinking, I am certain that it would prolong your days.”

“Come to think of it, I am sure that you are right about

that, doctor,” said the man. “I went 24 hours without a drink 6 months ago, and I never put in such a long day in my life.”

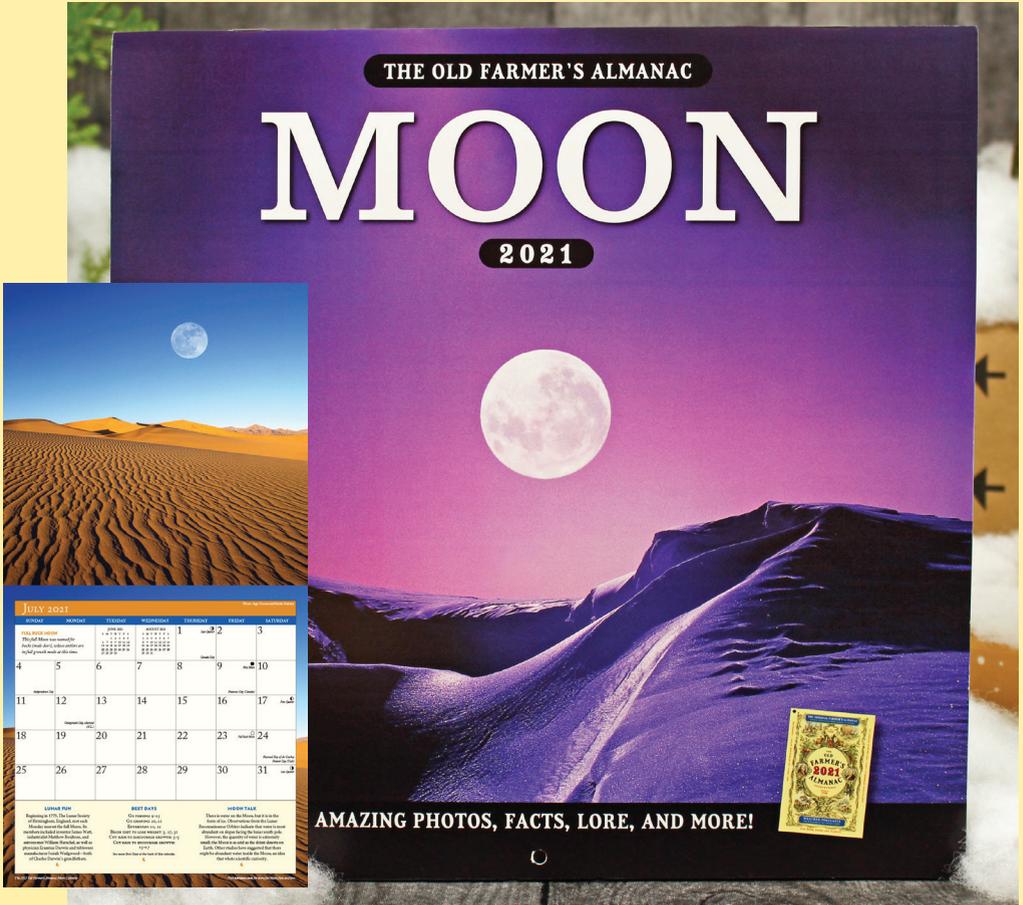
THE POWER OF ELOQUENCE

A man in North Carolina was saved from conviction for horse stealing by the powerful plea of his lawyer. After his acquittal by the jury, he was asked by the lawyer:

“Come clean now, Bill: You did steal that horse, didn’t you?”

“Well, lookie here,” came the reply. “I always did think that I stole that horse, but since I heard your speech to that there jury, I’ll be doggoned if I ain’t got my doubts about it.”

Old Farmer's Almanac 2021 Moon Calendar



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

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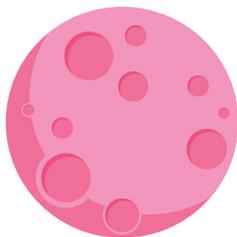


WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

Grow your own popcorn this year



CALENDAR

Moon phases; April name origin, holidays, and full Moon names; poem of the month



LIVING NATURALLY

Home Treatments for Soreness and Pain



HOME REMEDIES

How to Feel Good All Over



FOOD

Homemade Mac and Cheese 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 April *EXTRA!*

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 230TH YEAR!