

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

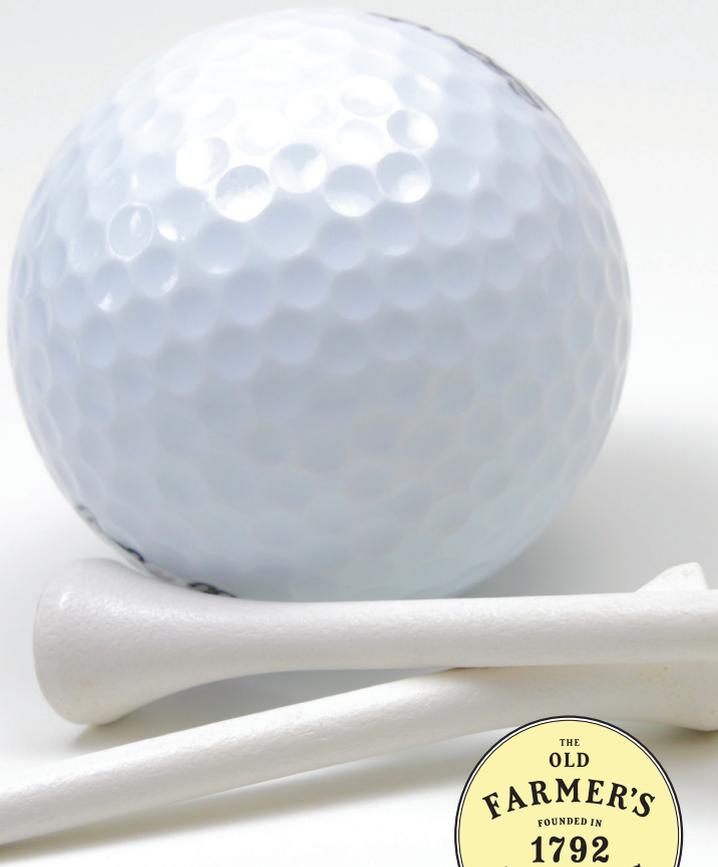
INVENTIONS  
THAT CHANGED  
SPORTS

THE SECRET  
LIVES OF  
PEANUT BUTTER

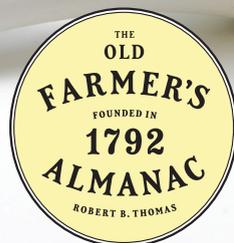
MOTHER'S DAY  
RECIPES

STRAWBERRY  
FIELDS FOREVER

BEST DAYS  
TO DO THINGS



MAY 2018



## FEATURES

### SPORTS

Inventions That Changed Sports

### FOOD

Mother's Day Recipes

### GARDENING

Strawberry Fields Forever

### LIVING NATURALLY

The Secret Lives of Peanut Butter



### WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

May U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

### WIT

Humor Me  
*Grins and groans from the Almanac*

### WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our June issue!

## DEPARTMENTS

### CALENDAR

May Birthdays, Holidays, History, and More

### ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

### ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for May



# THE MONTH OF MAY

## BIRTHDAYS, HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND MORE

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

May 13: Mother's Day

May 21: Victoria Day  
(Canada)

May 28: Memorial Day,  
observed



#### MAY DAY IS LEI DAY

In Hawaii, May 1 is celebrated as Lei Day.

Leis are garlands or wreaths that are often made with native Hawaiian flowers and leaves. Nowadays, they

are given as a symbol of greeting, farewell, affection, celebration, or honor, in the spirit of aloha.

Lei Day originated in 1927, when poet Don Blanding proposed a holiday to recognize the lei's role in Hawaiian culture. Writer Grace Tower Warren suggested May 1 for the date because it coincided with May Day, a celebration also linked to flowers. She coined the phrase, "May Day is Lei Day." The first Lei Day observance occurred on May 1, 1928. The following year, it was made an official holiday in the territory. (Hawaii did not become a state until 1959.)

Today, Lei Day celebrations may include music, games, exhibits, and lei-making demonstrations and contests.

### MOON WATCH

#### Last Quarter

May 7, at  
10:09 P.M. EDT

#### New Moon

May 15, at  
7:48 A.M. EDT

#### First Quarter

May 21, at  
11:49 P.M. EDT

#### Full Flower Moon

May 29, at  
10:20 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE  
MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE  
ABOUT MAY'S FULL  
MOON

### MONTHLY MUSE

*Among the  
changing months,  
May stands  
confessed  
The sweetest, and  
in fairest colors  
dressed!*

—James Thomson,  
Scottish poet (1700–48)

## FASCINATING FIRSTS

Which event occurred on May 19, 1928?

- a. The first journey over Niagara Falls in a rubber ball
- b. The first Jumping Frog Jubilee, Calaveras County, California
- c. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin
- d. The first confirmed trans-Pacific flight, from Oakland, California, to Brisbane, Australia



*Answer: b.  
The other events happened later that year.*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

### 15 YEARS AGO (2003)

**May 19:** JoJo Siwa (American dancer and social media star)

### 25 YEARS AGO (1993)

**May 13:** Debby Ryan (American actress)

**May 14:** Miranda Cosgrove (American actress and singer)

### 50 YEARS AGO (1968)

**May 4:** Anna Olson (Canadian pastry chef)

**May 12:** Tony Hawk (American professional skateboarder)

**May 28:** Kylie Minogue (Australian entertainer)

### 75 YEARS AGO (1943)

**May 5:** Michael Palin (English actor)

**May 10:** Judith Jamison (American dancer and choreographer)

**May 31:** Joe Namath (American football player)

### 100 YEARS AGO (1918)

**May 12:** Mary Kay Ash (American entrepreneur)



MICHAEL PALIN

### 125 YEARS AGO (1893)

**May 30:** Norman Cota (American brigadier general)

### 150 YEARS AGO (1868)

**May 31:** Sir Victor Cavendish (English governor-general of Canada)

### 200 YEARS AGO (1818)

**May 27:** Amelia Bloomer (American social reformer)

### 250 YEARS AGO (1768)

**May 20:** Dolley Madison (U.S. First Lady)



## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These May 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: 18, 19

Brew: 26–28

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 9, 10

Demolish: 26–28

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 1–3

End projects: 14

Lay shingles: 20, 21

Make jams/jellies: 9, 10

Paint: 14, 15, 24, 25

Start projects: 16

Wash floors: 9, 10

Wash windows: 11–13



## PERSONAL

---

- Advertise to sell: 26–28
- Ask for a loan: 10, 15
- Begin diet to gain weight: 19, 23
- Begin diet to lose weight: 10, 14
- Buy a home: 23, 28
- Color hair: 14, 15
- Cut hair to discourage growth: 9, 10
- Cut hair to encourage growth: 24, 25
- Get married: 24, 25
- Have dental care: 22, 23
- Move (house/household): 16, 17
- Perm hair: 6–8
- Quit smoking: 10, 14
- Straighten hair: 1–3, 29, 30
- Travel for pleasure: 20, 21
- Wean children: 10, 14

## OUTDOORS

---

- Begin logging: 4, 5, 31
- Go camping: 1–3, 29, 30
- Go fishing: 15–29
- Set posts or pour concrete: 4, 5, 31

## IN THE GARDEN

---

- Destroy pests and weeds: 11–13
- Graft or pollinate: 18, 19
- Harvest aboveground crops: 22, 23
- Harvest belowground crops: 4, 5, 14
- Mow to decrease growth: 12, 13
- Mow to increase growth: 26–28
- Pick fruit: 22, 23
- Plant aboveground crops: 18, 19, 26–28
- Plant belowground crops: 9, 10
- Prune to discourage growth: 1–3, 30
- Prune to encourage growth: 20, 21

## ON THE FARM

---

- Breed animals: 27, 28
- Castrate animals: 6–8
- Cut hay: 11–13
- Purchase animals: 18, 19
- Set eggs: 5–7, 24, 25
- Slaughter livestock: 27, 28
- Wean animals: 10, 14



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the May 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, Taurus, or Pisces

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

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

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

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

### THE MOON'S ASTROLOGICAL PLACE IN MAY

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

+ TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES

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

## MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

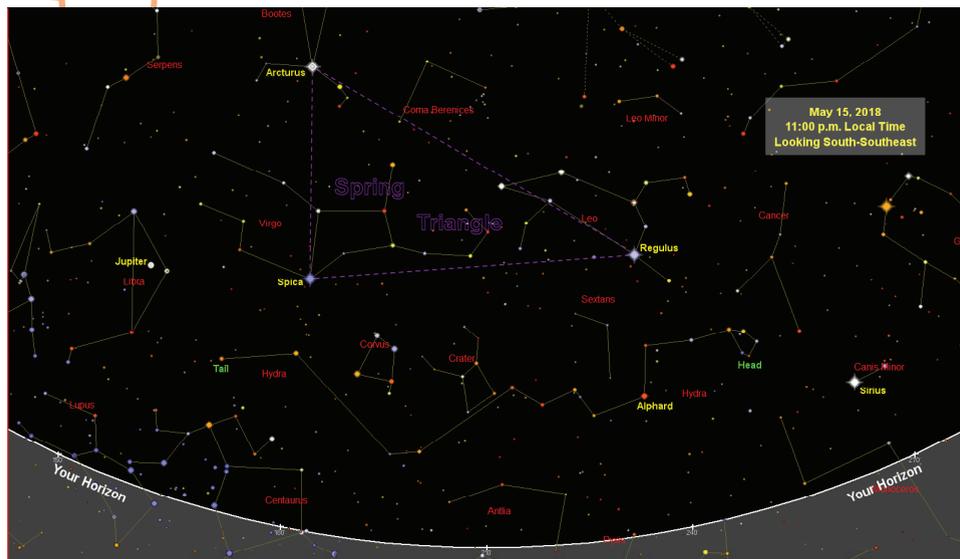
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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

—Celeste Longacre



May 15, 2018  
11:00 p.m. Local Time  
Looking South-Southeast

## THE LARGEST—AND MOST SERPENTINE—CONSTELLATION

### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
MAY SKY MAP

### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES

Constellations come in a tremendous variety of shapes, sizes, and levels of brightness. Some are big and bright, like Leo, the Lion, near the center of this month's sky map. Others are small and dim, like Leo Minor, the Lesser Lion, prowling just above Leo's head. Then there is Hydra, the Water Snake. Hydra is a sprawling, twisting star pattern, the largest of all constellations. But with one exception, its stars are faint, making it a challenge to see Hydra's full extent.

Start your hunt for the Water Snake by choosing an observing location far from city lights; too much "light pollution" makes Hydra's dim stars difficult to see. Get your bearings by facing south-southwest and finding the Spring Triangle, a trio of bright stars composed of Arcturus, Regulus, and Spica. Even brighter than these three is blazing Sirius, the brightest of all stars, low to the right. A fifth and



## **STAR HOPPING IS A TRIED-AND-TRUE METHOD FOR FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE SKY. ASTRONOMERS ALL OVER THE WORLD USE THE STAR HOPPING TECHNIQUE EVERY NIGHT OF THE YEAR.**

still brighter landmark is the planet Jupiter, off to the left.

Halfway between Regulus and Sirius, look for a small, five-sided star pattern. This diminutive pentagon is the head of Hydra. If you can see even four of the five stars in Hydra's head, your odds are good for seeing the rest of the Water Snake. From the head, the body of Hydra loops down to Alphard, the brightest star in the constellation. "Alphard" means "the solitary one" in Arabic, referring to the absence of other bright stars nearby. Now the real work begins—attempting to follow the rest of Hydra's body across the sky.

To do this successfully, use the "star hopping" technique. This involves comparing the sky map to the actual sky, carefully noting the position of each successive star in Hydra in relation to other stars. Hold the map in front of you and let your eyes move back and forth from the sky to the map as you "hop" from one star to the next. It takes some practice, but with care you can hop the full length of Hydra from head to tail. Star hopping is a tried-and-true method for finding your way around the sky. Astronomers all over the world use the star hopping technique every night of the year.

**T**here are a couple of interesting sights on the long trek from the head of Hydra to its tail: the constellations Crater, the Cup, and Corvus, the Crow (or Raven). Hydra slithers below both of them in a broad curve before we reach the Snake's tail to the lower left of Spica.

Hydra, Crater, and Corvus are all part of a myth involving the Greek god Apollo. As the tale goes, Corvus, the Crow, served Apollo a cup (Crater) of water, in which was lurking Hydra, the Water Snake. Irate Apollo banished the crow, the cup, and the snake to the sky, where they are fated to reside for eternity.

Few people ever see all of Hydra in one night, due to both the faintness of its stars and the fact that its enormous length means that some part of it is usually hidden below the horizon. The month of May offers a chance to view the entire Water Snake in all its reptilian glory.

*—Jeff DeTray*



# Inventions That Changed Sports

## SPORTS

**T**he inventor's genius is the ability to look at the everyday and see something new. Sports innovators have been players, coaches, and fans, whose unorthodox view of the game became the standard. Here are three innovations that changed the ways that we play the games we love.

### **THE 24-SECOND SHOT CLOCK**

Attendance was low in the National Basketball Association in the early 1950s. The problem was time: too much of

it. Danny Biasone, the former owner of the Syracuse Nationals (now the Philadelphia 76ers), recalled games in which no one scored during the last 8 minutes. "The game had become a stalling game," he said before his death in 1992. "A team would get ahead, even in the first half, and it would go into a stall. The other team would keep fouling, and it got to be a constant parade to the foul line. Boy, was it dull!

"We needed a time element in our game," he said.

Biasone, along with

Nats general manager Leo Ferris and head scout Emil Barboni, calculated the number of shots that he thought each team should take to make a lively game and settled on 60. Divided into 48 minutes of play, this worked out to 24 seconds between shots. On August 10, 1954, the NBA Board of Governors convened in a high school gym in Syracuse to watch a pickup game monitored by the clock. When the Rochester Royals played the Boston Celtics to open the regular season on October 30, 1954, the

**THE INVENTOR OF THE 24-SECOND SHOT CLOCK IS CREDITED WITH SAVING THE NBA.**





## THE BALLS BECAME SO PRIZED THAT PLAY WOULD STOP UNTIL A LOST BALL WAS FOUND.

shot clock was part of the game. In the very first season, the average scoring per team jumped by 13.6 points to 93.1. Biasone's invention remains the professional standard, and he is credited with saving the NBA.

### THE MODERN GOLF BALL

In 1898, Coburn Haskell, a Cleveland, Ohio, dentist whose obsession was golf, and Bertram C. Work, a superintendent at the B. F. Goodrich Company, played one of the most important rounds in the history of golfing equipment.

"Why don't you do something constructive," Work chided.

"No thanks," Haskell replied. "Golf is all I care about."

"Then invent a better golf ball," Work suggested.

Haskell accepted the challenge. Armed with a supply of elastic yarn, he worked at winding the stretched rubber into a tight ball. When the ball reached the size of a small marble, it shot from his fingers and bounced around the room. Haskell finally came up with a round ball under tension and

wrapped in gutta percha gum. When a local golf pro tested the Haskell prototype, he watched in amazement as it landed yards beyond a bunker that no one had ever reached in one drive. A patent for the design was granted on April 11, 1899. The Haskell-Work golf balls, manufactured by B. F. Goodrich, became so prized that play would actually be stopped until a lost ball was found.

Prior to Haskell's ball, golfers had played with leather balls filled with hair, leather balls filled with feathers, and gutta percha gum balls.

## THE PENALTY FLAG

Before the penalty flag, football referees blew a horn attached to their wrists to signify a penalty and blew a whistle to stop the play. On the sidelines in Youngstown, Ohio, Dike Beede couldn't distinguish one from the other.

"I thought that perhaps if there were some visual signal given which wouldn't be heard by the players, it would be helpful," Beede said later.

On October 17, 1941, the Youngstown College Penguins were to

play a night game against Oklahoma City. Dike asked his wife, Irma, to make four flags. She sewed triangles of red cloth from a Halloween costume to triangles of white cloth from a bed sheet. Into one corner of each flag she sewed curtain weights.

"If you drop one of these whenever there's a penalty, I think we'll have a better game," Dike suggested to the officials.

But the historical importance of this game passed unnoticed. The Penguins won, and three of the officials threw

away their flags.

Only Jack McPhee, the head linesman, kept his, and he was to use it often. For this reason, McPhee is often credited with throwing the first flag.

McPhee did make history a few years later when he tossed Irma Beede's flag in a game between Ohio State and Iowa in Columbus, Ohio. The Big 10 commissioner was in the stands. The next week, the flag was adopted throughout the conference. In 1948, the NFL approved the penalty flag.

—Bob Trebilcock

**"IF YOU DROP ONE OF THESE WHENEVER THERE'S A PENALTY, I THINK WE'LL HAVE A BETTER GAME."**



FOOD



# Mother's Day Recipes

In honor of Mother's Day this year (May 13), we are sharing recipes that have been handed down over generations. Whether a comfort food classic or a delicious dessert, these timeless recipes always deliver and delight.

FOOD

# Grandma's Meatballs



TAP FOR  
RECIPE

PHOTO: BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER

## GRANDMA'S MEATBALLS

- 1/2 pound 85% lean ground beef
- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 3 eggs
- 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 sweet onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch Italian flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup freshly grated Pecorino Romano cheese
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 to 1 baguette (or loaf of French or Italian bread, no seeds)
- olive oil for frying

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

In a bowl, combine all ingredients except bread and oil. Mix thoroughly.

Wet half of the bread with water, then squeeze out excess water. Tear into small pieces and add to meat mixture. Mix with your hands. It should be sticky but hold together. If too wet (not holding together), wet remaining bread, squeeze out excess water, and add in pieces as necessary to make mixture sticky and hold together.

In a skillet over medium heat, warm 1 inch of olive oil until hot. Using 1/4 cup of meat mixture at a time, form meatballs by hand. Add to oil (meatball should sizzle). Turn to brown on all sides. Drain meatballs on paper towels and serve with your favorite sauce.

**Makes 25 to 35 meatballs.**

FOOD

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE

# Mother's Forgotten Cookies

PHOTO: SARAH PERREULT

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

## MOTHER'S FORGOTTEN COOKIES

2 egg whites, at room temperature

3/4 cup sugar

3/4 cup chocolate chips or 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

1/4 teaspoon mint extract

1 to 2 drops green food coloring (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line one or two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Using an electric hand or stand mixer, beat egg whites until stiff, gradually adding sugar. Fold in chocolate chips, mint extract, and food coloring (if using).

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets.

Place in oven and turn off oven immediately. Leave in oven with door closed overnight.

In the morning, remove cookies from oven and store in an air-tight container.

**Makes about 3 dozen small cookies.**

# Nana's Funny Cake

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE



## NANA'S FUNNY CAKE

2 unbaked 9-inch piecrusts

### CAKE:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1-1/2 cups sugar

1 cup milk

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened

2 teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 eggs

### TOPPING:

1 cup sugar

3/4 cup hot water

1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two pie plates with pie pastry.

*For cake:* In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, milk, butter, baking powder, salt, and eggs. Pour half into each piecrust.

*For topping:* In a bowl, combine sugar, hot water, cocoa powder, and vanilla. Pour half of topping over each pie.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

**Makes 2 pies.**

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

# 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!

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- master your microclimate

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GARDENING

# Strawberry Fields Forever

PHOTO: YURIYS/GETTY IMAGES



## CONSIDER A RAISED BED: IT WILL WARM FASTER AND DRAIN MORE READILY.

**S**trawberries are wonderfully easy to grow. Almost anyone can get one or two, even three good crops. However, for most strawberry varieties, the second and third years are the pinnacle of production. After that, they decline and succumb to diseases.

Most growers want to keep berries coming. Here's how to get the best yield, with the least amount of hassle.

### PREPARE A PROPER BED

A single large, sweet strawberry needs 6 to 10

hours of direct sunlight per day to produce. Day-neutral strawberries can get along with less sunlight than other varieties and will tolerate afternoon shade, but they still need at least 6 hours of sun. So, choose a suitable location for your growing beds.

Your strawberry bed should be a place where tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, or peppers have not grown in the past few years. Strawberries contract the same diseases that these vegetables do.

Consider a raised bed: It will warm faster and

drain more readily than the surrounding ground.

Soil preparation is important. Aim to create a loose, fertile, well-draining area, with a pH level of about 6.0. Add large amounts of organic matter. Consider layering your growing bed like a cake, with sand on the bottom for drainage, aged stable bedding in the middle, and compost on top. Compost is a constant source of nutrients, but your plants might reward you handsomely if you boost them with foliar applications of a kelp-humic acid mixture once a week.

Regardless of whether you grow in a raised or ground-based bed, consider blanketing the soil with black plastic to further heat the soil.

### **STRAWBERRY TYPES**

The terms used to describe strawberries can be confusing. Here's what they mean.

flower and fruit in autumn, and the autumn-formed buds fruit in the following spring. Everbearers produce few runners.

### **JUNEBEARER**

Also known as spring-bearing, these plants are sensitive to the length of day (as opposed to day-neutral). These



## **EVERBEARING STRAWBERRIES PRODUCE FRUIT IN SPRING AND AUTUMN.**

### **DAY-NEUTRAL**

Insensitive to day length, these varieties produce buds, fruit, and runners continuously if temperatures remain between 35° and 85°F. Runner production is much less than that of Junebearers.

### **EVERBEARER**

These varieties form buds during the long days of summer and the short days of autumn. The buds formed in summer

varieties produce buds in autumn and flowers and fruit in the following spring for a 2- to 3-week period. They send out runners during the long days of summer.

### **STRAWBERRY TYPE CASTING**

Knowing how the types of strawberries perform will help you choose your type:

If you want a big berry harvest within a few months of planting, grow



## **SPRAY STRAWBERRIES WITH PURÉED GARLIC AND NEEM SEED OIL TO DETER JAPANESE BEETLES.**

everbearer or day-neutral strawberries and treat them like annuals or biennials. Pick off all of the flowers for the first 6 weeks that the plants are in the ground and remove all runners. Let the second round of flowers set fruit and continue to pinch off the runners. The plants will produce one crop in midsummer and a larger one in fall. Mulch heavily (6 to 12 inches of chopped leaves, hay, or other organic matter) after the first killing frost, so that the bed will

survive the winter and produce another heavy crop in the following season.

If long-term strawberry production is your goal, let runners form on everbearer or day-neutral plants. Leave newly rooted plants in place to fill in the bed or transplant them to create a second strawberry bed—a common practice.

### **BEATING BIRDS AND BUGS**

Keeping beds weed-free and using a gritty mulch can deter slugs and bugs.

Spread sand over the strawberry bed to deter slugs. (This also works well for lettuce.) Pine needles also foil slug and pill-bug damage.

For bigger bugs such as Japanese beetles, spray your plants with puréed garlic and neem seed oil.

When birds threaten your strawberries, position balloons with scare-eyes above the beds and use reflective Mylar bird tape to deter them.

### **SMALL SPACES, BIG HARVESTS**

Because strawberry

## GARDENING

plants are small, they do well in containers and tight places. Day-neutral varieties such as 'Tristar' are perfect for hanging baskets because they can produce berries on cascading unrooted runners. Simply enrich the potting soil with 1/4 cup of gradual-release fertilizer and place three plants in a 10-inch hanging basket.

weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer.

Cement construction blocks make great raised-bed borders, and their holes can be planted with strawberries as a bonus crop. The berries benefit from the extra warmth gathered by the concrete blocks. Fill holes with a mixture of half compost and half potting soil.



## STRAWBERRIES DO WELL IN CONTAINERS AND TIGHT PLACES.

Pouches—hanging plastic bags that have X's cut through one side for planting—can be planted with up to a dozen strawberry plants. Water regularly and feed every 2

Set one everbearing or day-neutral strawberry plant in each hole. Feed the plants with liquid fertilizer twice a month and keep them watered. Pinch off runners. Expect to harvest about 1 quart of berries per hole during the season.

—Doreen G. Howard



TAP TO LEARN THE  
BEST VARIETIES  
FOR YOUR REGION

## THE BEST VARIETIES FOR YOUR REGION

Experiment to discover which strawberries grow best in your own yard. Considering the country at large, the following selections are a guide to the varieties that may prove to be the most successful.

Key: D = Day-neutral; E = Everbearer; J = Junebearer

### NORTHEAST

‘Cavendish’ (J), ‘Earliglow’ (J), ‘Honeoye’ (J),  
‘Northeast’ (J), ‘Sparkle’ (J), ‘Fort Laramie’ (E),  
‘Ogallala’ (E), ‘Tribute’ (D), ‘Tristar’ (D)

### MIDWEST AND PLAINS

‘Cavendish’ (J), ‘Earliglow’ (J), ‘Glooscap’ (J), ‘Honeoye’  
(J), ‘Sparkle’ (J), ‘Winona’ (J), ‘Fort Laramie’ (E),  
‘Ogallala’ (E), ‘Tristar’ (D)

### SOUTHEAST AND TEXAS

‘Chandler’ (J), ‘Douglas’ (J), ‘Dunlap’ (J), ‘Oso Grande’ (J),  
‘Sequoia’ (J), ‘Sweet Charlie’ (J), ‘Selva’ (E), ‘Tristar’ (D)

### WEST COAST

‘Camarosa’ (J), ‘Chandler’ (J), ‘Oso Grande’ (J),  
‘Quinault’ (E), ‘Seascape’ (E), ‘Selva’ (E), ‘Fern’ (D),  
‘Tristar’ (D)

### CANADA

‘Cavendish’ (J), ‘Glooscap’ (J), ‘Kent’ (J), ‘Northeast’  
(J), ‘Fort Laramie’ (E), ‘Ogallala’ (E), ‘Fern’ (D),  
‘Heckler’ (D)

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GARDEN PLANNER

LIVING NATURALLY



# The Secret Lives of Peanut Butter

From shaving cream and leather polish to mousetrap bait,  
peanut butter gets the job done.

PHOTO: JULIA SUDNITSKAYA/GETTY IMAGES



**A**ccording to the National Peanut Board, Dr. George Washington Carver developed more than 300 products from the humble peanut. These included . . .

- axle grease
- charcoal
- face powder
- glue
- hand lotion
- insecticides
- nitroglycerin
- paper
- plastics
- rubber
- shampoo
- shaving cream

Today's peanut butter, a staple in most pantries, can serve an astonishing variety of household purposes. The smooth or creamy style works best. Of course, if you or a family member suffer

from a peanut allergy, you will want to avoid these solutions.

- Use a bit of peanut butter on a cotton cloth to rub off label adhesives.
- Massage a bit of peanut butter into hair to remove a wad of chewing gum.
- Use a thin coat as a substitute for shaving cream. (Really! Hydrates and moisturizes.)
- Polish leather and vinyl items using a bit of peanut butter on a cotton cloth. Buffs up wooden items, too.
- Hang pinecones stuffed with a mixture of peanut butter and coarse cornmeal as a treat for winter birds.
- Smear it on garden tools (including wooden handles) as a winter preservative.

• Apply it to lawn mower blades as a lubricant.

• Spread some on a slice of apple or a scrap of bread for a good mousetrap bait.

• Encourage your dog to swallow a pill by sticking it into the center of a little gob of xylitol-free peanut butter.

Tasty, nutritious, and packed with antioxidants, peanut butter made with only peanuts as an ingredient can also serve as a healthy butter alternative. If you like the taste, simply substitute smooth peanut butter for the butter in recipes for baked goods calling for butter.

—Margaret Boyles



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



A COLD MAY IS GOOD FOR CORN AND HAY.

# HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

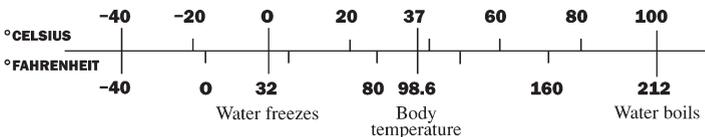
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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

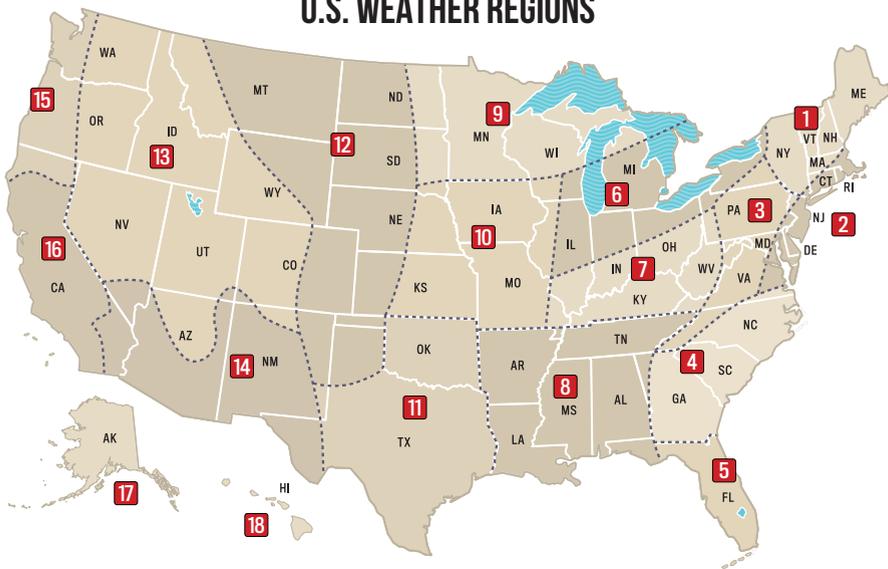


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY

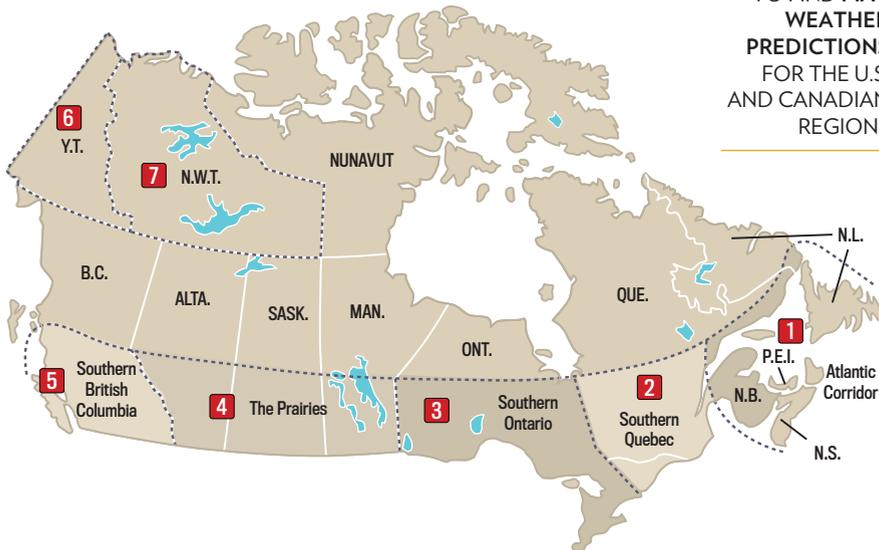


# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

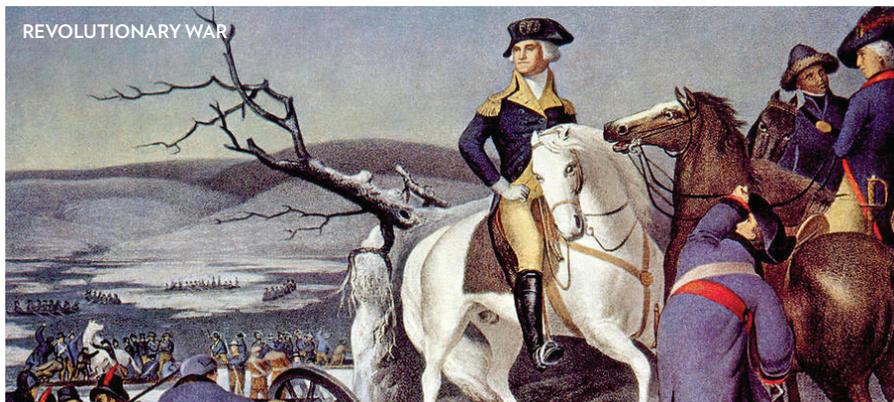


## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





## WARTIME WEATHER

*For Generals Washington and Eisenhower, the skies were an important ally.*

**W**eather has played a critical role in history on a number of occasions. In both the American Revolutionary War and World War II, different weather outcomes than actually occurred might have led to the opposite side emerging victorious.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Gen. George Washington and most of the American troops were in what is now New York City in the summer of 1776. In late August, the British landed a much larger number of troops in the area in preparation for an attack. On August 27, the British charged the Americans with a superior force. With the redcoats only a few hundred feet away, the

American troops used the cover of dense fog to escape unnoticed, with Washington among the last to retreat. If not for that fog, historians believe, General Washington would have been captured and the war likely ended with American defeat.

In early 1777, Washington again faced disaster, as his troops were bogged down in New Jersey, surrounded by a superior British force, with muddy ground making movement nearly impossible. By nighttime, rain was falling, to be followed by strong northwest winds and temperatures holding steady and then even starting to fall during the day. Washington did not realize that this meant that a strong cold front had passed—he did not know



about or understand the science behind cold fronts—but he did realize from his experience that this meant that the coming night would get much colder.

With this knowledge, Washington ordered his troops to prepare huge bonfires to make it appear as though they were holding their ground for the night. But, in the darkness, Washington had his troops prepare to evacuate—which they did as soon as the ground froze. In the darkness, with the ground frozen, Washington moved his troops, cannons, and other matériel northward to higher ground—thereby living to fight another day.

If Washington had not used his knowledge of weather patterns to realize that the ground would freeze as the basis for his strategic retreat, his forces would have instead been surrounded and captured—and America would have likely lost its

war for independence in 1777 instead of ultimately winning it in 1783, with the final peace accord signed at Yorktown, Virginia.

## WORLD WAR II

More than a century and a half later, during the early stages of World War II in 1940 when Axis forces were winning battle after battle, the main Allied force was trapped near Dunkirk, a town along the English Channel in northern France. A retreat or rescue was nearly impossible, since the superior German air force would have blown any ships out of the water.

But what Winston Churchill called “a miracle of deliverance” appeared, as heavy rains kept German planes grounded while calm waters and dense fog allowed the Allied forces to escape quietly, undetected, across the English Channel. As the last men were ferried



to safety, the weather cleared, leaving the Germans alone on the beach and the Allies alive to fight another day.

Although Hitler and Stalin had signed a mutual nonaggression pact in 1939, by 1941 each country had plans to attack the other. Hitler struck first, in June of 1941. Recognizing the difficulties of Russian winters, Hitler's plans were to defeat Russia by late fall. In fact, the German army was so confident that it could defeat Russia quickly that several units brought dress uniforms for a victory march in Red Square but did not bring any winter clothes.

But Hitler was not able to initially deploy as many troops as early in the fall as he had planned. It turned out that the troops of his ally, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, were bogged down in North Africa, so Hitler had to bail him out. He dispatched German Gen.

Erwin Rommel's troops to Africa to prevent an Axis defeat, thereby delaying their deployment to Russia. The result was that the German troops were tired and less effective than Hitler had planned when they arrived on the Russian front. Then, heavy rains further delayed the German advance into Russia by a couple of weeks, which turned out to be crucial.

Now Germany was running well behind schedule, and despite all of Hitler's initial planning to defeat Russia early, he wound up in the same Russian winter trap that had defeated Napoleon back in 1812—still fighting during what turned out to be the coldest Russian winter in 140 years with German soldiers unprepared for temperatures as low as 40° below zero.

Hitler's defeats in the Soviet Union, outside Moscow and in Stalingrad, became an important turning point in the war—and they were largely due to the heavy rains that had delayed the invasion and then the extraordinarily cold winter. Ultimately, this weather sequence shortened the war and probably reduced American casualties substantially. Again, the weather seemed to be on America's side.

In early June of 1944, the Germans still controlled most of Europe. Although they knew that the Allies



## WEATHER UPDATE



NORMANDY, WORLD WAR II

were planning a major attack with a landing from the sea to establish a beachhead on the continent, the Germans did not know the exact timing or the location of the coming attack. The Allies had been planning this attack for more than a year and decided to launch the invasion on Normandy beaches in France on June 6, 1944—weather permitting.

Having broken the German Enigma code used to encrypt communications, the Allies were able to access and use German weather observations. This gave Allied meteorologists a weather advantage. Because they already controlled most of the Atlantic and thus knew the weather upstream over the Atlantic Ocean and across the UK, the Allies needed only to add knowledge of German weather conditions to have enough extra information to be able to advise the Allied commander,

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, that conditions for the planned invasion would be marginal, but sufficient.

In contrast, the Germans were without sufficient upstream weather observations. As a result, they were forecasting weather conditions unsuitable for an invasion that day, so they were caught completely by surprise by the Allied attack on Normandy beaches.

As with George Washington, for Dwight Eisenhower superior knowledge of weather conditions and forecasting ability were the keys to a critical victory. The success of the Normandy landing and this whole mission, of course, led not only to Germany's defeat but also to a boost to Eisenhower's reputation and career—which later helped him to become a two-term president of the United States.

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



# HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC ARCHIVES



## Foolishness

A farmer walked into a hardware store and while purchasing some tools was asked by the proprietor if he would like to buy a bicycle.

“You won’t have to always keep a bicycle in feed,” said the storekeep, “and you can

ride around your farm on it. They’re getting cheaper now, and I can let you have one for 35 dollars.”

“I’d rather put the 35 dollars into a cow,” said the farmer.

“Well,” said the hardware man sarcastically, “you’d look almighty foolish

riding around your farm on a cow, now, wouldn’t you?”

“No more foolish, I guess,” said the farmer, “than I would milking a bicycle.”

## GOOD QUESTION

An important educator once visited a primary school and



proceeded to examine and question the pupils. After the pupils had answered a great many questions, he asked, "Now, is there anyone here who would like to ask me a question?"

No one replied, so he asked the question again.

Finally, one little hand went up.

"Yes, what is it?" he asked indulgently.

"Please, sir," came a tired little voice, "what time does your train leave?"

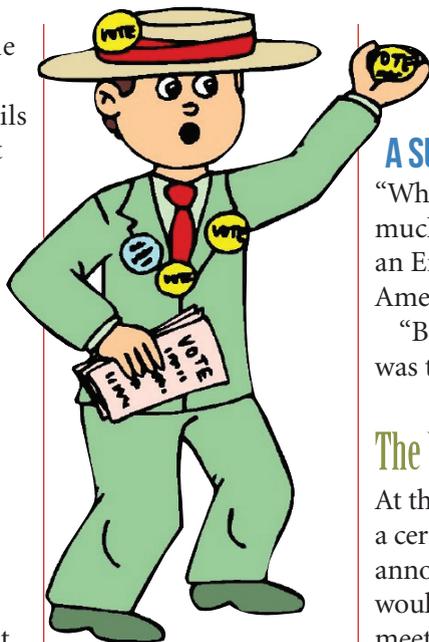
## Fifty-Fifty

In Connecticut, there was a court case involving an 8-day clock, which the plaintiff claimed had been stolen.

"You get the clock," said the judge.

"But what do I get?" asked the defendant.

"You get the 8 days."



## NEWSPAPER "LIES"

"The lies the dad-blamed newspapers publish about us," said one politician to another, "are enough to drive a man to drink."

"Yes, that's so," replied the other, "but still we have no cause for complaint."

"Why not?" asked the first, in surprise.

"Well, it could be much worse," came the

reply. "They might publish the truth."

## A SUFFICIENT REASON

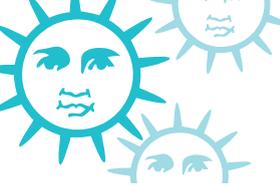
"Why do you use so much tobacco?" asked an Englishman of an American.

"Because I *chews*," was the reply.

## The Uninvited

At the close of a service, a certain dull clergyman announced that there would then be a meeting of the Board. All of the congregation, with the exception of the Board of Trustees and one stranger, rose and left. The clergyman waited a little and then addressed the stranger, saying, "My brother, perhaps you misunderstood me. This is to be a meeting of the Board."

"Yes," replied the stranger, "go right ahead. I was never so bored in all my life."



# WHAT'S NEXT



## GARDENING

Happiness Is Hydrangeas



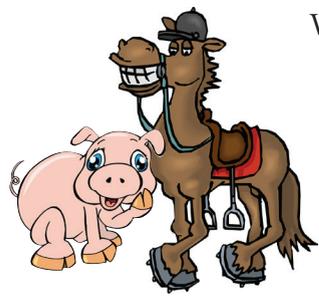
## CALENDAR

Monthly Muse, Moon Watch, June birthdays, World Environment Day, June trivia



## LIVING NATURALLY

Why you should hang laundry outside to dry



## AMUSEMENT

The extraordinary horse vs. pig race



## FOOD

Strawberry 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 June *EXTRA!*

**CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 226TH YEAR!**