

EXTRA!

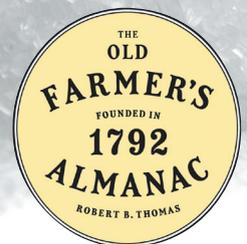
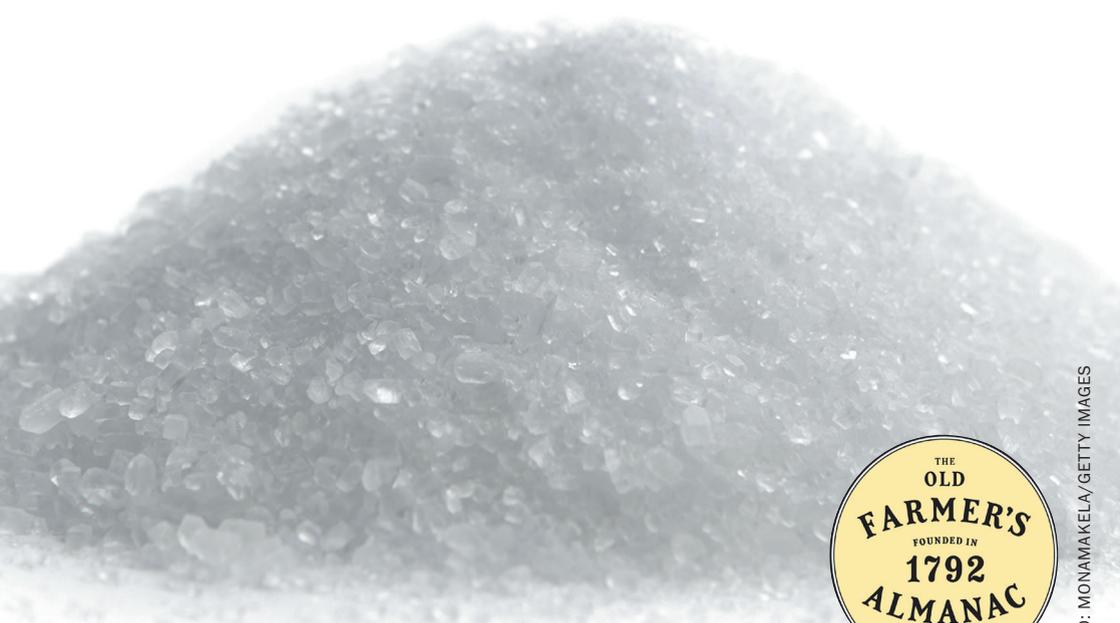
FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

REMEMBERING THE DEPARTED

HOW TO STAY MARRIED FOR 50 YEARS

MOTHER'S DAY RECIPES

PANTRY POTIONS FOR PLANT PESTS



MAY 2021

FEATURES

GARDENING

Pantry Potions for
Plant Pests

FOOD

Mother's Day
Recipes

ROMANCE

How to Stay Married for
50 Years
*Commonsense Advice
From Five Siblings
Who Did It*

LIVING NATURALLY

Remembering the
Departed



WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make
Our Predictions

May U.S.
and Canadian
Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

May Holidays,
Full Moon Names,
and More

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to
Do Things

Gardening by the
Moon's Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for May

WIT

Humor Me
*Grins and groans
from the Almanac*

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have
in store for our
June issue!



FOLLOW US:



MAY

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More



EYE ON THE SKY

MAY'S FULL MOON NAMES

Flower Moon, Budding Moon,
Planting Moon, Egg-Laying Moon,
Moon of Shedding Ponies

MOON PHASES

Last Quarter: May 3, 3:50 P.M. EDT

New Moon: May 11, 3:00 P.M. EDT

First Quarter: May 19, 3:13 P.M. EDT

Full Moon: May 26, 7:14 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MAY'S FULL MOON

*The song of Nature is forever,
Her joyous voices falter never;
On hill and valley, near and far,
Attendant her musicians are.*

*From waterbrook or forest tree
For aye comes gentle melody;
The very air is music blent,
A universal instrument.*

—John Vance Cheney, American poet
(1848–1922)

A MONTH TO REMEMBER

“May” is likely named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. Alternatively, the name might have come from the Latin *maiores*, “elders,” who were celebrated now.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

May 1: May Day

May 2: Orthodox Easter

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 9: Mother’s Day

May 15: Armed Forces Day

May 22: National Maritime Day

May 24: Victoria Day (Canada)

May 31: Memorial Day, observed



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*

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 24, 25

Ask for a loan: 5, 6, 10

Begin diet to lose weight: 6, 28

Begin diet to gain weight: 15, 24

Buy a home: 24, 25

Color hair: 10, 11

Cut hair to discourage growth: 5, 6, 10

Cut hair to encourage growth: 22, 23

Entertain: 17–19

Get married: 22, 23

Have dental care: 20, 21

Move (house/household): 12–14



Perm hair: 3, 4, 30, 31
Quit smoking: 6, 28
Straighten hair: 26, 27
Travel for pleasure: 17–19
Wean children: 6, 28

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 15, 16
Brew: 24, 25
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 5, 6
Demolish: 24, 25
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 7–9
End projects: 10
Lay shingles: 17–19
Make jams or jellies: 5, 6
Paint: 22, 23
Start projects: 12
Wash floors: 5, 6
Wash windows: 7–9

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 1, 2, 28, 29
Go camping: 26, 27
Go fishing: 11–26
Set posts or pour concrete: 1, 2, 28, 29

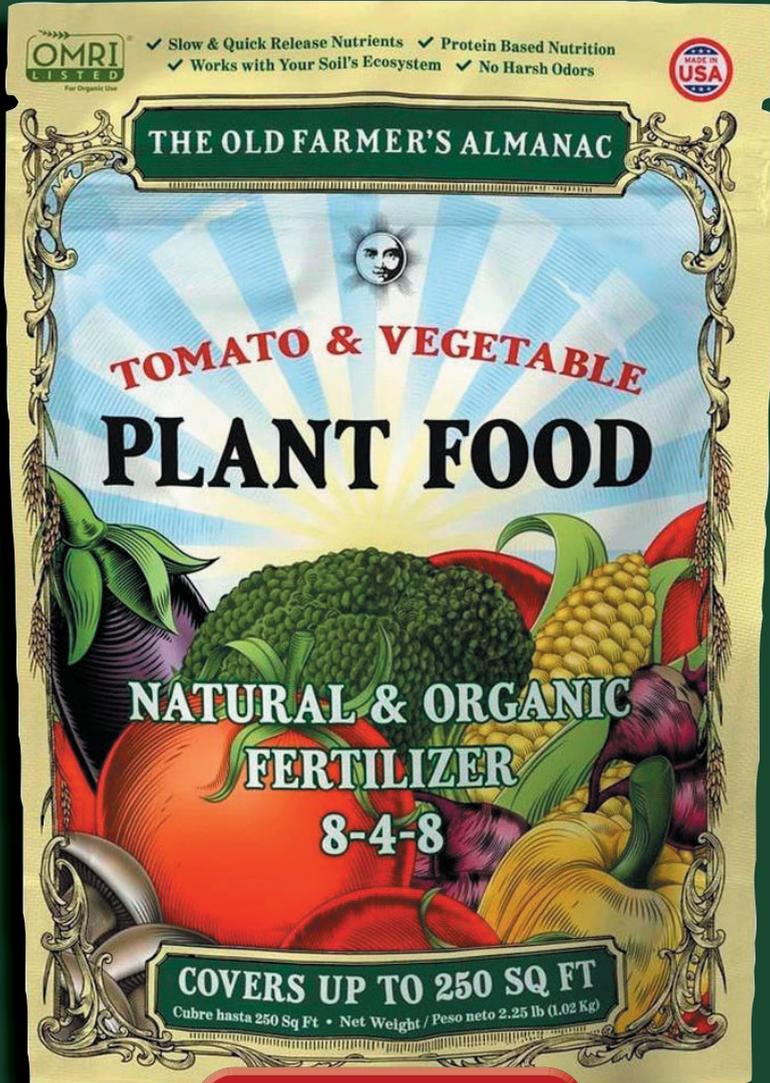
IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 7–9
Graft or pollinate: 15, 16
Harvest aboveground crops: 20, 21
Harvest belowground crops: 1, 2, 28, 29
Mow to slow growth: 7–9
Mow to promote growth: 24, 25
Pick fruit: 20, 21
Plant aboveground crops: 15, 16, 24, 25
Plant belowground crops: 5, 6
Prune to discourage growth: 7–9
Prune to encourage growth: 17–19

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 24, 25
Castrate animals: 3, 4, 30, 31
Cut hay: 7–9
Purchase animals: 15, 16
Set eggs: 3, 4, 21–23, 30, 31
Slaughter livestock: 24, 25
Wean animals: 6, 28

Organic fertilizer for bountiful and delicious fruits and veggies!



ORDER NOW



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, 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 MAY

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

TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

TAP FOR
MAY MOON
PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

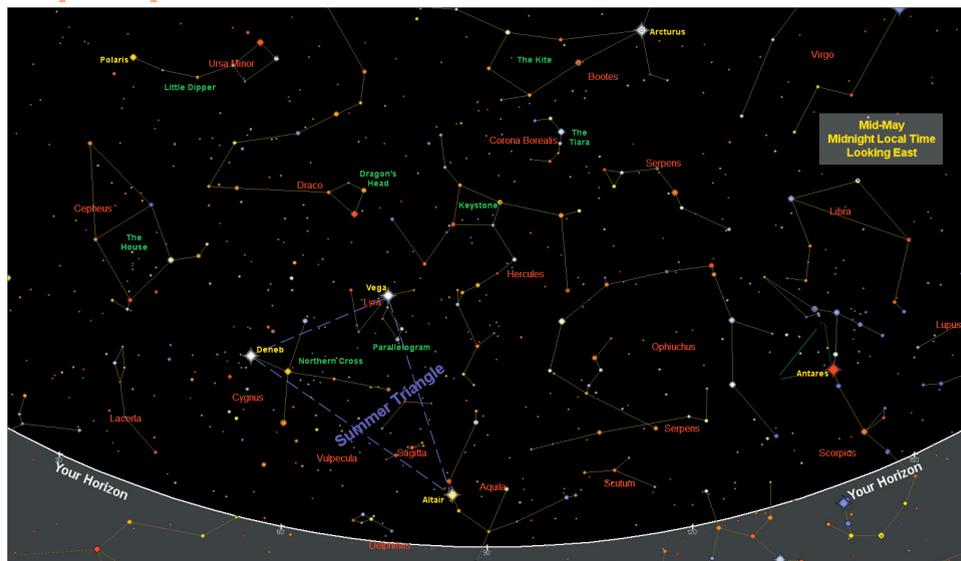
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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.

Mercury's remaining 2021 retrograde periods are **May 29–June 22** and **September 27–October 17**.

—Celeste Longacre



ALL ABOUT ASTERISMS

An asterism is an easily recognized star pattern that lies within a constellation. Unlike constellations, asterisms are entirely “unofficial.” There is no international organization or governing body that assigns names to asterisms. Their names have come into popular usage because they are a convenience—an easy way to navigate the sky. If you wish, feel free to identify and name your own asterisms. Who knows? Your names might catch on!

For a fine example of an asterism, look near the center of this month’s star map for the Keystone, a compact pattern of four stars that lies within the constellation Hercules, the Hero. Hercules is a sprawling constellation, the fifth largest in the sky, but the distinctive shape of the Keystone really stands out.

Above and to the right of the Keystone is the constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. To me, this semicircle

 TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
MAY SKY MAP

 TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY’S SKY
ADVENTURES



of stars looks far more like a tiara than a crown, so The Tiara it is, at least for me.

Higher in the sky lies Boötes, the Herdsman, whose main stars form an asterism known as The Kite. It's a sloppy-looking kite, to be sure, but the shape is certainly suggestive of one—enough so that it can help you to get your bearings and find Boötes. The bright star Arcturus anchors the tail of The Kite.

Off to the left, look for the Little Dipper asterism, part of the constellation Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear. At the end of the dipper's handle is Polaris, the North Star. From brightly lit suburbs, you'll see only Polaris and the brighter stars of the dipper's bowl. Leave town to see the whole dipper.

Between the Little Dipper and The Kite slithers the body of Draco, the Dragon, which culminates in the Dragon's Head, a four-sided asterism that shows up well when viewed from a dark location.

Below the Dragon's Head, look for two very bright stars that point the way to a great pair of asterisms, one small and the other quite large.

The star Vega in the small constellation Lyra, the Lyre, achieved notoriety as home to the fictional aliens who sent a message to Earth in the 1997 Jodie Foster film *Contact*. Beneath Vega is a small but beautifully symmetrical asterism, the Parallelogram. Its exquisite and geometrically perfect shape is a wonder.

To the lower left is the bright star Deneb, marking the tip of the Northern Cross, which lies on its side at this time of year. Deneb and the Northern Cross are part of the large constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The name "Deneb" is derived from the Arabic word for "tail," and indeed Deneb sits at the tail of the Swan.

The left side of our sky map features The House, an asterism within the constellation Cepheus, the King. Yes, it's a lopsided house, but no more lopsided than the ones we all drew as children.

We've already mentioned that Vega and Deneb can help you to find two lovely asterisms. These two stars, plus brilliant Altair, comprise the three corners of the large asterism known as the Summer Triangle, marked in purple on our Sky Map. The Summer Triangle will be prominent in the sky from now well into autumn.

—Jeff DeTray

GARDENING



Pantry Potions for Plant Pests

PHOTO: MAREKULIASZ/GETTY IMAGES

Look around your kitchen. You have vinegar, baking soda, garlic, and many other products—maybe even a can or two of fruit cocktail—that can help to keep house and garden plants healthy. When you're baffled by bugs, try these safe, inexpensive, and reliable remedies.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol kills mealybugs, scale, aphids, spider mites, whiteflies, slugs, and earwigs by acting as a surfactant, or wetting agent, that can penetrate an insect's waxy coat of armor and kill on contact with the body.

But not just any alcohol will do. Methanol (wood alcohol) evaporates a bit too fast. Isopropanol (rubbing alcohol) works fine and is easy to find, but be sure

that it doesn't contain additives. Ethanol (grain alcohol) seems to work best.

Alcohol usually comes in 70 percent strength in stores (or 95 percent when purchased commercially). To make an insecticidal spray, mix equal parts of 70 percent alcohol and water (or if using 95 percent alcohol, mix 1 part alcohol to 1-1/2 parts water). To kill mealybugs, dip a cotton swab or cotton ball into alcohol and wipe off the infestation.

BEER

You might prefer consuming your beer, but have you ever considered alternative products? In a report to the Entomological Society of America in the 1990s, Floyd F. Smith of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said that in a series of 4-day greenhouse tests,

beer attracted more than 300 slugs, while metaldehyde, a standard bait ingredient that can be toxic to terrestrial mammals and birds, attracted only 28.

Placed in shallow pans with the top edges flush with the ground, beer is a safe, inexpensive killer of snails and slugs. The pests crawl into the pans and drown.

BAKING SODA

A rose is not just a rose when it is yours and spotted. Black spot disease causes the leaves of roses to wilt, turn yellow, and drop off. To combat this, mix 3 tablespoons of baking soda into 1 gallon of water and spray the roses. Pick up any fallen rose leaves and burn them or take them to the dump.

BUTTERMILK

Mites are the scourge of many outdoor

ornamental plants, as well as some indoor ones. So tiny that it takes 50 of them to cover the head of a pin, mites cause yellowed and stippled foliage and twisted leaf tips. For a simple home cure that works on ornamental plants and fruit trees, mix 1/2 cup of buttermilk, 4 cups of wheat flour, and 5 gallons of water and strain the mixture through cheesecloth. Spray it onto affected plants to kill the mites and their eggs. Use the remaining buttermilk to make pancake batter and celebrate your having beaten the bugs.

CANNED FRUIT

You can buy Japanese beetle traps of all sorts, but most are no more effective than a can of fruit cocktail. Open the can and let it sit in the sun for a week to ferment. Then place it

on top of bricks or wood blocks in a light-color pail and fill the pail with water to just below the top of the can. Place the pail about 25 feet from the plants that you want to protect. The beetles will head for the sweet bait, fall into the water, and drown. If rain dilutes the bait, start over.

EPSOM SALTS

If your muskmelons taste flat, the trouble could be a lack of magnesium in sandy soil. You won't know if the fruit is flat until you pick it, of course, but if you've had this happen (or want to avoid the risk), try this remedy: Sweeten the fruit by spraying the vines with a solution of 6-1/2 tablespoons of Epsom salts and 3-1/3 tablespoons of borax dissolved in 5 gallons of water. Spray the foliage when the vines begin to "run" and again when

the fruit are about 2 inches in diameter.

WOOD ASHES

Slugs and snails hate wood ashes. Sprinkle ashes around flower and vegetable plants. The ashes are a good source of potassium, unlocking nutrients so that plants can take them up. Ashes also check radish maggots: Sprinkle ashes over seeds before covering with soil.

PETROLEUM JELLY

Whiteflies ("flying dandruff") can be the most difficult plant pest, indoors or out. Trap them with yellow index cards coated with petroleum jelly. To whiteflies (also aphids, scale, and some other insects), the color yellow looks like a mass of new foliage. The bugs are attracted to the cards, get stuck in the jelly, and die.

ROMANCE



How to Stay Married for 50 Years

Commonsense Advice From Five Siblings Who Did It

PHOTO: DEAN MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Scientists yet to stumble upon a genetic link between longevity, love, and loyalty perhaps have been looking in the wrong place. They need only to have referred to Reading, Pennsylvania's Janikowski clan, which at one time had seven couples in three generations that had celebrated golden wedding anniversaries. We once asked one generation—five siblings—to share their secrets.

1. Put the needs of the other first. “I learned not to expect the best all the time, that sometimes you have to settle,” said Julia.

2. Don't let money ruin your relationship. “One person has to handle the finances,” stated Frances. “In our case, it was me.”

3. Learn how to get along. “I shared a bed with my sister for years,” recalled Jessie. “We would argue and push each other around, but we still had to live together peaceably.”

4. Respect each other's privacy. “Give each other a lot of space. Develop interests outside of each other,” recommended Paul, a golfer. His wife, Rickie, played tennis.

5. Get to know your partner before you start a family. “Don't get married and have kids right away. As soon as the kids come, they dominate your life and you have less time for each other,” advised Julia.

6. Never move in with your in-laws. “When you live in someone else's house, you can wind up losing all sense of privacy and sense of individuality. Everything is theirs. Nothing is yours,” commented Jessie, who lived with her in-laws while her husband was in the service.

7. Set aside time for each other. “The family that plays together stays together,” said Paul.

8. Grow together, not apart. “Learn to recognize each other's needs and realize that those needs are going to change,” warned Stanley.

“Marriage requires a lot of adjustments.”

9. Encourage your spouse to live out his or her dreams. “My husband had a lot of jobs during our life together. It wasn't easy,” remembered Frances. “He opened a store. I didn't think that this was a good idea. Sure enough, 3 years later, we lost the business. I let him do it, even though I had no faith in it. Why? Because I loved him and felt he deserved the chance.”

10. Make up and move on. “Learn to forgive and forget. Tomorrow will bring its own set of problems,” advised Frances.

11. Be honest. “There should be no secrets. Keeping secrets shows a lack of trust and respect,” pointed out Jessie.

12. Trust your instincts. Love at first sight really happens. All five Janikowskis said that they knew the first time they met their future partner that they were going to spend the rest of their lives together.

FOOD



Mother's Day Recipes

In honor of Mother's Day this year (May 9), we are sharing recipes that have been handed down over generations. Whether for comfort food or a delicious dessert, these timeless recipes deliver and delight.

PHOTO: CESARZ/SHUTTERSTOCK

FOOD

Mother's Lemon Chicken

MOTHER'S LEMON CHICKEN

4- to 5-pound chicken
juice of 1 lemon
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 325°F. Pat chicken dry and place in a roasting pan.

In a bowl, combine lemon juice and melted butter. (After squeezing juice out of lemon, place in chicken cavity.) Baste chicken with a few tablespoons of lemon–butter mixture.

In a separate bowl, combine salt and cinnamon. Sprinkle over chicken and inside the cavity. Bake for 1 hour and 45 minutes, continuing to baste with remaining lemon–butter mixture every half-hour until mixture is gone. Chicken is done when internal temperature reaches 165°F on a meat thermometer.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Grandma's Old-Fashioned Oatmeal Raisin Cookies



GRANDMA'S OLD-FASHIONED OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

1 cup (2 sticks) softened butter, at room temperature	1 teaspoon baking powder
1-1/2 cups sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs, at room temperature	2 cups uncooked old-fashioned rolled oats
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	1 cup raisins
2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour	

In a bowl, cream butter, gradually adding sugars, eggs, and vanilla.

In a separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture until uniformly blended. Stir in oats and raisins. Cover dough and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 350°F and grease two large baking sheets. Using mounded tablespoonfuls of dough, make balls of dough almost 2 inches in diameter and lay them onto the sheets, leaving plenty of room for them to spread. Bake for about 22 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool cookies on the sheets for 1 to 2 minutes, then transfer to a rack and cool to room temperature.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.



Mom's Chocolate Pie

MOM'S CHOCOLATE PIE

FILLING:

- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 4 eggs, separated

1 tablespoon butter

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 baked deep-dish piecrust

TOPPING:

4 egg whites (reserved from eggs used in Filling)

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 cup sugar

For filling: In a bowl, combine sugar, flour, cocoa, and salt and set aside.

In a saucepan, combine cream, milk, and cocoa mixture and cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened. Beat egg yolks until thick. Add small amount of chocolate mixture to egg yolks and stir. Then add egg yolk mixture to chocolate mixture and cook over medium-low heat until very thick. Remove from heat and add butter and vanilla. Stir, and set aside to cool.

For topping: Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a chilled mixing bowl, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until foamy. Slowly beat in sugar until stiff (but not dry) peaks form. Pour cooled filling into the piecrust and top with meringue. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until meringue is just lightly browned.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

LIVING NATURALLY



Remembering the Departed

PHOTO: RELAX FOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Through the ages, every culture has developed rituals to both honor and remember the dead.

I'm not talking about funeral rites or methods of disposing of the body as much as about ways to keep alive the memories of loved ones.

My mom died more than 20 years ago after suffering a long, slow decline from Parkinson's disease. She was my hero and best friend. A powerful advocate for children and for the rights of marginalized and "different" people—poor people, folks with mental or developmental disabilities, genuine eccentrics—she lives on in the better parts of me.

I still think of her every day, sometimes finding myself on the verge of picking up the phone to call her with some interesting tidbit of news or some "crackin' good story" that I know that she'd enjoy.

I spoke a eulogy at her memorial service, wearing her old denim hat with the folded brim and the large fake sunflower attached. Mom loved flowers of every sort, wild and cultivated. Especially sunflowers. We

handed out packets of sunflower seeds to people who attended the service, encouraging people to plant them or feed them to the birds, since Trudy also loved birds.

When it came time to clean out her small house at the edge of a pond in north-central Vermont, I took home half a dozen cotton t-shirts, a couple of sweatshirts, and a few dish towels with a lot of wear left in them, along with the denim hat, her World War II-era canning tongs, an old handheld eggbeater, and a couple of throw pillows that smelled of her house for a decade.

All of these humble, useful objects served and still serve me as talismans, protecting me with her love, her energy, and her boundless belief in me.

I started wearing the t-shirts right away, mostly as pajama tops. Over the years, the brightly colored shirts began to fray. When I hung them on the clothesline, they reminded me of Buddhist prayer flags flying in long strings at base camps for Himalayan expeditions and other venues in that part of the

world.

The flags themselves, which predated Buddhism and even writing, today come imprinted with verses from the Buddhist scriptures (sutras). As the flimsy cotton flags gradually disintegrate in the wind and weather, the blessings contained in their material substance are set free, dispersed around the globe and into the common consciousness.

I loved that idea—that everything that Trudy embodied got stored in those t-shirts and then gradually dispersed on the winds as the shirts continued fraying and shredding. After the shirts became far too threadbare to wear, I retired what was left of them to the cleaning-rag bag.

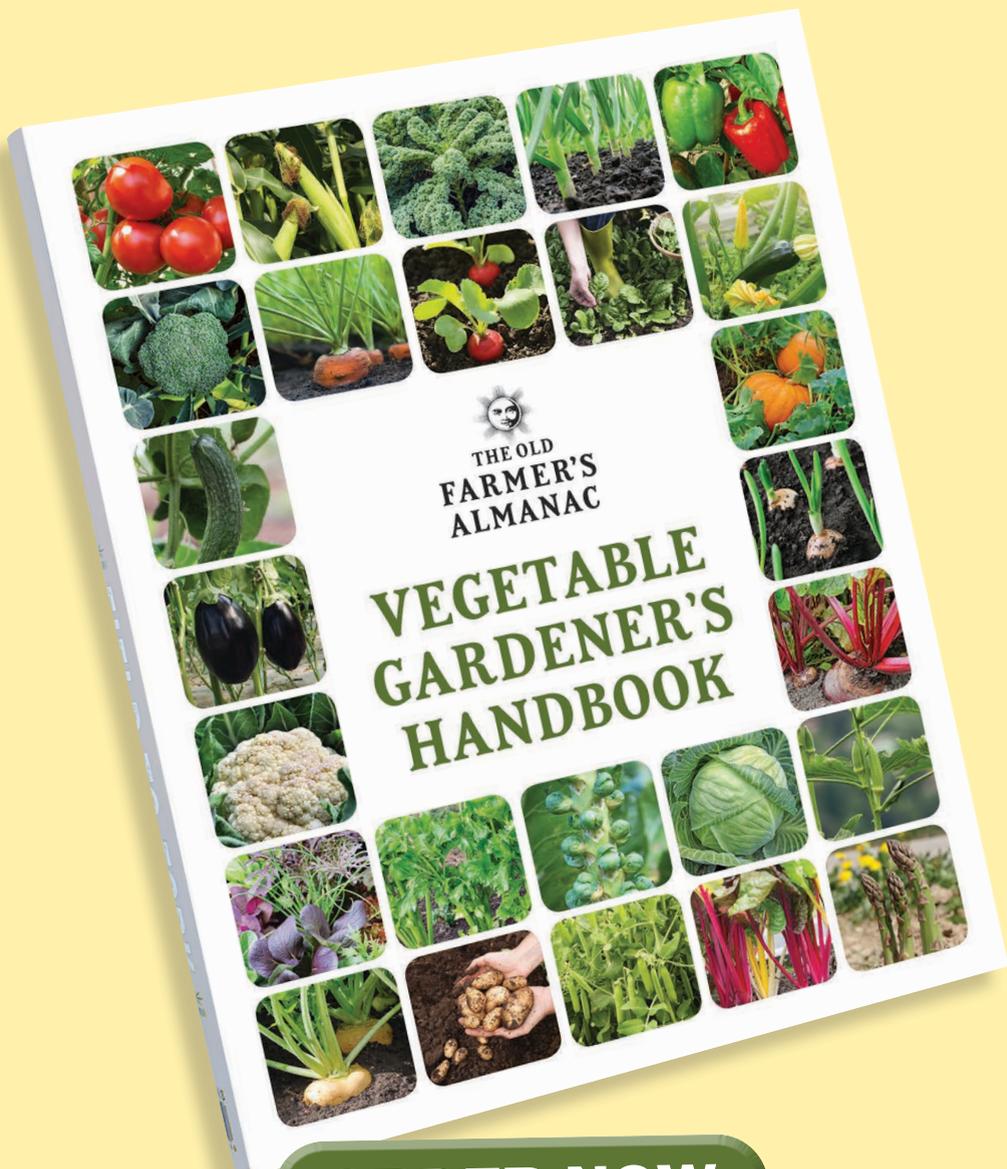
Mom, who kept a much tidier house than mine, would have loved that. "I don't want to be beautiful, rich, or well-known," she often said. "I just want to be useful."

—Margaret Boyles



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

The perfect companion for every vegetable gardener!



ORDER NOW



A SWARM OF BEES IN MAY IS WORTH A LOAD OF 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.

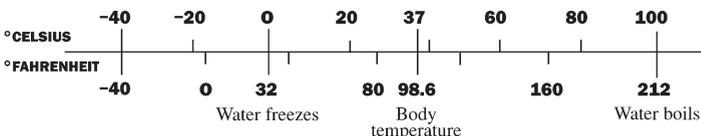


TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

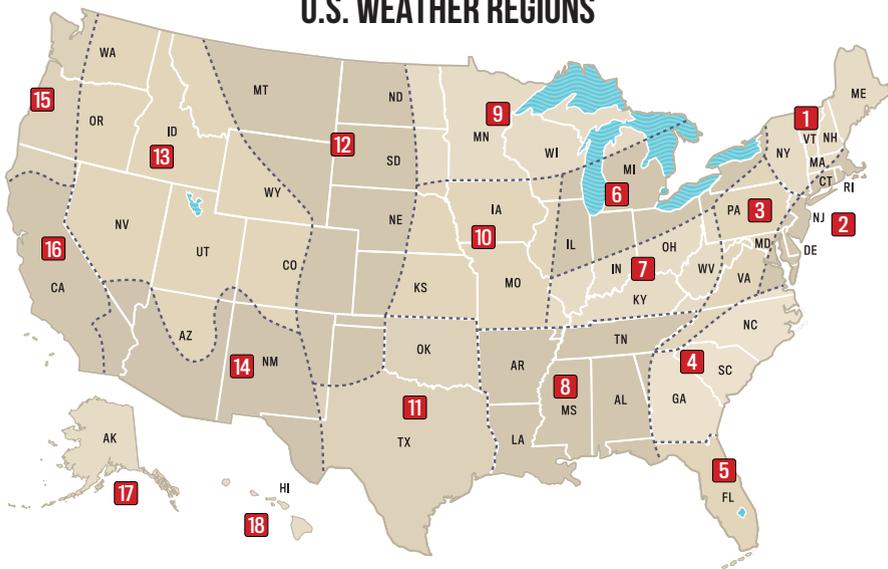
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



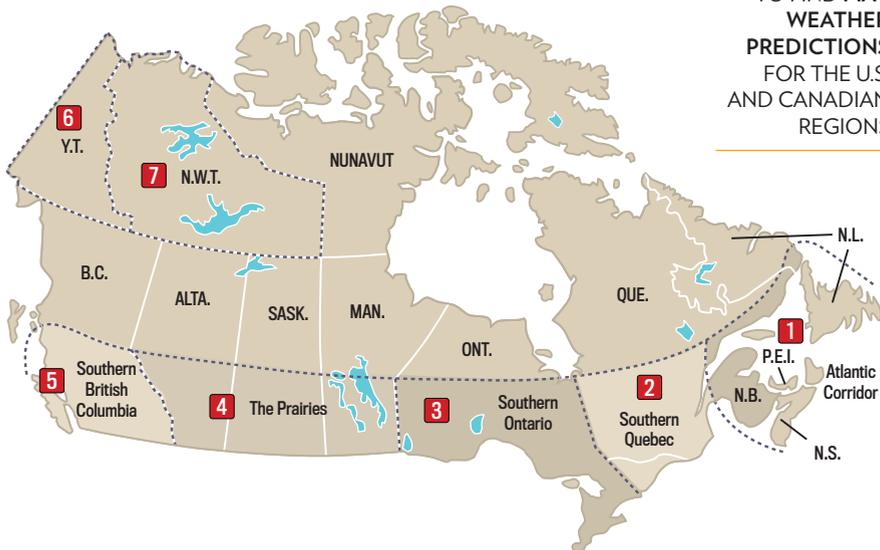


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





COOL BUT NOT CRUEL

On May 1—May Day—no one will need to shout “Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!” (from the French *m’aider*, by the way, a shortened form of “help me”), as sunshine will predominate in the Appalachians, Upper Midwest, Deep South, and Canadian Prairies. Elsewhere, whatever rain there is will be mostly light.

On Cinco de Mayo—May 5, of course—expect rainy periods in most areas, with sunshine predominating in the western United States and Canadian Maritimes.

May 9 is Mother’s Day, when you can thank Mom for all that she does—although you may want to do so indoors in most areas, as rainy periods will dampen her hair if she is outdoors. If you live in places from Texas to California and from the Intermountain region to the Pacific, make sure that



Mom is wearing her sunscreen before heading outdoors, as sunshine and warm temperatures will be the rule.

For Canada's Victoria Day, May 24, most areas across the country will have showers and cool temperatures, although warm weather will prevail in Quebec and Manitoba.

Memorial Day weekend in the United States falls on May 29–31 this year. Although most states will have cool morning temperatures for the end of May, sunshine will bring a warmer afternoon, with showery weather limited to the Gulf states, northern Illinois and Indiana, the High Plains, the Desert Southwest, Alaska, and Hawaii.

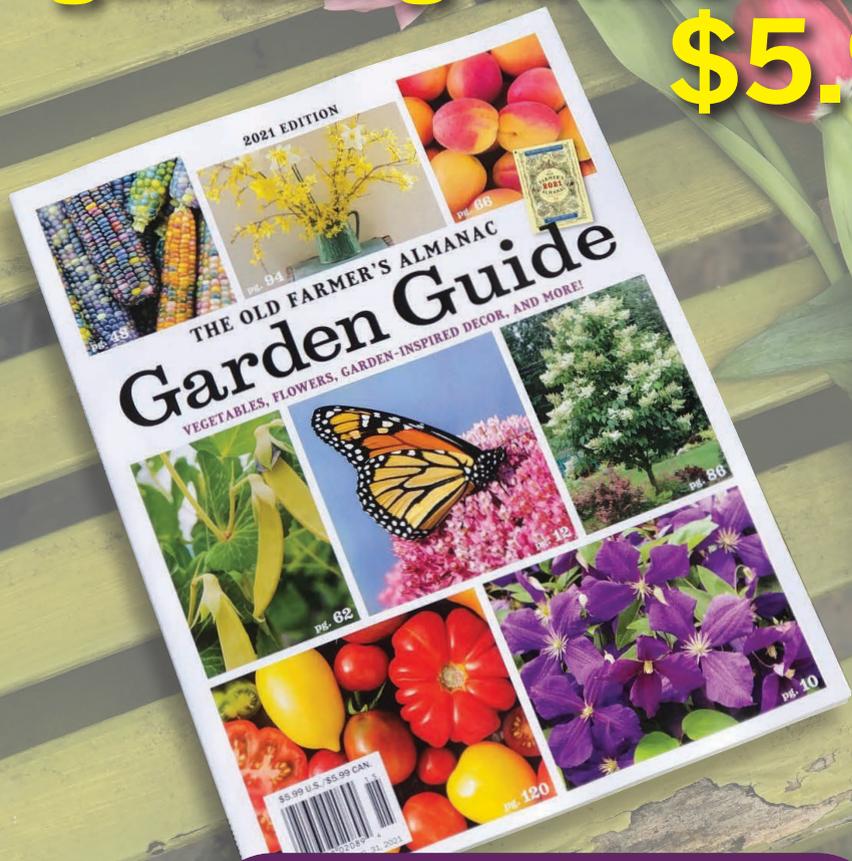
Overall, May will be cooler than normal in most of the United States and Canada, although still much warmer than April. Only the area from the Lower Lakes to the High Plains and the Canadian Prairies will have temperatures that average above normal. Most places will have near to slightly above-normal precipitation, and even those with below-normal rainfall should have enough for fields and gardens.

Hurricane season officially starts on June 1. While we expect near or above-normal activity, 2021's storms will fall far short of the barrage that characterized the 2020 hurricane season. The best chance for a major hurricane strike will be in locales from South Carolina to New England in early to mid-August, with tropical storm threats in Florida in mid-May and from Florida to southern New England in early to mid-September.

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

The 2021 Garden Guide is here!

A bounty of useful gardening advice for just **\$5.99!**



ORDER NOW



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



EMPTY PROMISE

“Mama, I’ve got a stomachache,” said little Nellie.

“That’s because you’ve been without lunch. Your stomach is empty. You’d feel better if you had something in it.”

That afternoon, their pastor paid a visit, and in the course of conversation remarked that he had been suffering all day with a severe headache.

“That’s because it’s empty,” interjected Nellie. “You’d feel

better if you had something in it.”

PUPPY LOVE

A small boy saw some puppies at the humane society.

“Please, ma’am,” he said to a volunteer, “how much are those



puppies?”

“For their shots, they’re \$10 apiece.”

“Oh, but I don’t want a piece,” said the boy. “I want a whole dog.”

CIRCLE OF TRUTH

A clergyman walking along a road saw a group of boys sitting in a circle in the grass, with a small dog in the middle.

“What are you doing with that dog?” he asked.

“Well,” said one of the boys, “whoever tells the biggest lie wins the dog.”

“Why, I’m surprised at you boys!” said the clergyman. “When I was your age, I never told a lie.”

After a slight pause, one of the boys said, “OK, give the gent the dog.”

PRESCRIPTION FOR ERROR

“Have you ever made a serious mistake in filling a prescription?” a customer once asked his druggist.

“Most certainly, but only once,” the man replied. “I charged a guy 30 cents instead of a dollar and a half.”

OFF THE RAILS Q&A

A young lady not too wise to the ways of the world was being shown through the Baldwin locomotive works in Philadelphia.

“What is that thing?” she asked, pointing with her parasol.

“That,” answered the guide, “is an engine boiler.”

“And why do they boil engines?”

“To make the engine tender,” politely replied the resourceful guide.

SCARY INDEED

Said the tourist to the farmer: “You have an unusually large acreage of corn under cultivation—don’t the crows annoy you a great deal?”

“Oh, not to any great extent.”

“That’s amazing, considering that you have no scarecrows!”

“Well, I’m actually out here a good part of the time myself.”

ONE “DRINK” TOO MANY

“A woman was arrested downtown this morning.”

“What for?”

“She was caught in the act of shoplifting a hand mirror.”

“Poor woman! That’s what happens when you take a glass too much.”



WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

Tips and Tricks
for Growing Your
Best Veggies



CALENDAR

Moon phases; June name
origins, holidays, and full
Moon names; annular solar
eclipse; summer solstice



ASTRONOMY

Explore with
our Sky Map



AMUSEMENT

Remembering
Family Road Trips



FOOD

Summer Strawberry
Recipes



LIVING NATURALLY

Value the “Volunteers”
in Your Garden—
and Life!

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 230TH YEAR!